



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-161
Monday
21 August 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-161

CONTENTS

21 August 1995

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Claims Jerusalem Bus Bomb; Reaction Reported	1
'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Claims Attack [Jerusalem Radio]	1
'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Issues Communique [Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]	1
'Arafat Denounces 'Ugly Crime' [Jericho VOP]	2
'Initial' Arab Reaction Reported [Jerusalem Radio]	2
Kanafani Condemns Bus Bombing [Jerusalem International]	3
Further on Kanafani Remarks [Jericho VOP]	3
Orient House Condemns Attack [Jerusalem Radio]	4
Justice Minister on 'Most Serious Operation' [Jerusalem International]	4
Al-Quds Radio: Heroic Operation Kills 200 [Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]	5
Al-Quds Radio on 'Latest' News Reports [Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]	5
Israeli Police Sources Cited on Casualties [Jericho VOP]	5
Hamas Members Clash With Police, Burn U.S. Flag [Jerusalem Radio]	5
Adviser Denies Clashes [Jericho VOP]	5
Wanted Hamas Men Surrender to Police in Gaza [Jerusalem Radio]	5
Fatah Official on PA Treatment of Hamas 'Terrorists' [Jerusalem Radio]	6
Officer Denies Accord With Hamas on 'Terrorists' [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 21 Aug]	6

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat Conveys Proposal on Hebron to Israel's Tzur [MA'ARIV 20 Aug]	7
Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations Resume in Elat	7
Palestinians View Outstanding Issues [Jericho VOP]	7
Draft Accord Sought by End of Week [Jerusalem Radio]	8
Interim Accord Said To Be Signed 13 Sep [Jerusalem TV]	8
'Arafat To Meet Rabin, Peres in Late Aug [MENA]	8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Three Car Bombs Explode in Algiers [AFP]	9
More on Explosions [Algiers Radio]	9
Security Service on Suspects [Algiers Radio]	9
'Terrorists' Assassinate Imam in Algiers Mosque [Algiers Radio]	9
Grenade Explosion Kills 5 'Terrorists' [Algiers TV]	9
Journalist Wounded in 'Terrorist' Attack [Algiers Radio]	10
GIA Orders Justice Ministry Workers To Resign [Paris LCI TV]	10
FIS' Haddam Confirms Government Contacts, Rejects Election [London AL-HAYAH 19 Aug]	10

Egypt

Robert Pelletreau Arrives on Brief Visit	10
Describes Jordan Talks [Cairo Radio]	10
Briefs Mubarak on Developments [Cairo Radio]	11
Meets With Musa [MENA]	11
Leaves for Saudi Arabia [MENA]	11
Commentary Views Mubarak-Pelletreau Talks [Cairo Radio]	11
Musa To Visit Amman for Talks on Iraqi Defections [AFP]	12
Probable Motives for Iraqi Defections Examined [AL-AHRAM 16 Aug]	12
Iraqi Defector Seen as Another 'Executioner' [AL-AHRAM 16 Aug]	12
Commentary Urges Iraqi Regime To Quit [Cairo Radio]	13
Paper Blames Saddam Husayn for Tension in Gulf [Cairo Radio]	14
Lawsuit Filed Against Israel for Killings [MENA]	14
Envoy to Israel Discusses Killing of POW's [Cairo International]	14
Compensation for POW Families Rejected; Trials Sought [MENA]	15
Israeli Response on POW Killings Due Soon [MENA]	15
Paper on Israel's 'War Crimes,' 'Barbarism' [MENA]	16
Radio Analyzes Legal Aspect of POW Killings [Cairo International]	16
Journalists Comment on POW Deaths [MENA]	16
Mubarak Receives Cable From Libya's al-Qadhdhafi [Cairo Radio]	17
Devastation of Cotton Crop Examined [AL-AHRAM WEEKLY 16 Aug]	17

Sudan

Regime Said in Contact With 'Terrorist Masterminds' [MENA]	18
Rebel Garang Faction Declares War on SSIM [AFP]	19
Rebels Said Trying To Recruit in Refugee Camps [Omdurman Radio]	19
Changes Sought To Eliminate Islamists Denied [AL-SHA'B 15 Aug]	19
Mubarak Said Disappointed With Sudanese Opposition [SUNA]	20
Al-Bashir Receives Former Security Head [Omdurman Radio]	20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Government Keeps Watch on Iraqi Troop Movement	21
None Toward Border Noted [AFP]	21
'Unusual' Troop Movements in Iraq [AFP]	21
UNIKOM: Situation Normal on Border [AFP]	22
U.S. Central Forces Commander Arrives in Kuwait [Kuwait TV]	22
Iraqi Defector Said To Have Information on POW's [KUNA]	22
Minister Looks Forward to New Iraqi Regime [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Aug]	22
Information Minister on Defection of Iraq's Hasan [KUNA]	23
Official Plays Down Conscription of Students [KUNA]	23

Saudi Arabia

Source Confirms Saddam's Wife's Visit to Amman [AL-YAWM 18 Aug]	23
Pelletreau, Delegation End Visit, Leave [SPA]	24

IRAQ

Failed Coup Attempt Reported in 'Past Few Days' [MENA]	25
Hammudi Denounces U.S. 'Escalation' Against Nation [INA]	25
Radio Warns U.S. of 'Grave Losses' in Aggression [Mother of Battles Radio]	25
U.S. Said To Use 'Iraqi Threat' To Boost Position [INA]	26
U.S. 'Lies' Aimed To Bolster Military Presence [Baghdad Radio]	26
U.S. Military, Political Moves Show 'Hostile Policy' [INA]	27
U.S. Administration Said Preparing for 'Aggression' [INA]	27
Minister Hammadi Meets With Jordanian Journalists [AL-ASWAQ 20 Aug]	27
Nation Not To Threaten Jordan 'Under Any Circumstances' [INA]	28
'Silly' To Talk of Iraqi Military Moves on Jordan [MENA]	29
U.S. Attempt To Spoil Jordan Ties 'Exposed' [INA]	29
Opposition Leader on Possible Attack on Israel [Jerusalem TV]	29
UINC Said Preparing To Overthrow Regime [Voice of the People]	31
Journalists Invited for Possible Declaration on Arms [London MBC TV]	31
Saddam's Approval Needed to Travel; Border Reinforced [AFP]	31
Two More Saddam Family Members Reportedly 'Escape' [Voice of the People]	32
UN's Ekeus Continues Visit to Baghdad for Talks	32
Meets With MIO Director [INA]	32
To Meet With Husayn Kamil [AFP]	32
Comments on Iraqi Defector [Amman TV]	33
Talks With 'Aziz, Notes Progress [INA]	33
Says Needs More Arms Information [AFP]	33
Promises To Verify Information [Baghdad TV]	34
Calls Talks 'Promising' [INA]	34
Holds News Conference [Baghdad TV]	34
Hammadi Discusses Ekeus Mission, Ties With Jordan [AL-RA'Y 20 Aug]	35
120 Officers, Guards Said Questioned on Defection [Voice of the People]	36
Wathan al-Hasan Interviewed on 'Fabrications' [Baghdad TV]	36
Journalist Claims Hasan Tried To Arrest Saddam [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Aug]	36
Paper: Defector's CIA Ties Began 'Year Ago' [Paris AL-MUHARRIR 21 Aug]	37
Beirut Paper Reveals 'Secrets' of Hasan Defection [AL-ANWAR 19 Aug]	38
Saddam's Half-Brother Backs Husayn Kamil Hasan [AFP]	38
Al-Jubur Tribe Ready for 'Alliance' With Hasan [London AL-HAYAH 18 Aug]	39
Opposition Leader Urges Support for Hasan [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	39
Change 'Close' Following Defections From Regime [London AL-HAYAH 18 Aug]	40

ISRAEL

Explosion Aboard Jerusalem Bus Reported	42
Radio Reports 'Many Casualties' [Jerusalem Radio]	42
Two Killed; 30 Injured [Tel Aviv Radio]	42
Suicide Bombing Suspected [Jerusalem Radio]	42
Death Toll Rises to Five [Jerusalem Radio]	42
Sixth Body Apparently Female 'Terrorist' [Jerusalem Radio]	42
Rabin Orders Suspension of Taba Talks [Jerusalem Radio]	43
Rabin: Attack Effort To Torpedo Talks [Tel Aviv Radio]	43
Rabin Holds News Conference [Jerusalem Radio]	43
Peres: Suspension Not To Affect Timetable [Jerusalem Radio]	43
Shahal Interviewed on Bus Bombing [Tel Aviv Radio]	44
Shahal Consults With Rabin, Comments [Jerusalem Radio]	45
Beilin: Talks To Continue [Jerusalem TV]	46
Netanyahu Views 'Murderous' Attack [Jerusalem Radio]	46
Likud, Tzomet, Moledet React [Tel Aviv Radio]	47
Closure Imposed on West Bank [Jerusalem Radio]	47
Jordanian Ambassador Comments on Bombing [Jerusalem International]	47

JORDAN

King on Support for Iraq, Contacts With U.S. [Amman TV]	48
Government Stresses 'No Changes' in Iraq Policy [JORDAN TIMES 20 Aug]	49
'Senior' Source on Pelletreau Visit, Iraq Policy [AL-DUSTUR 19 Aug]	49
U.S. 'Promises' Not To Abandon Jordan Doubted [AL-RA'Y 19 Aug]	50
U.S. Criticized for Proposing Jordan Sever Iraq Ties [AL-DUSTUR 20 Aug]	51
Paper: U.S. Did Not Ask Jordan To Cut Ties [AL-RA'Y 20 Aug]	51
UN's Ekeus Reportedly To Meet With Iraqi Defector [JORDAN TIMES 20 Aug]	52
Husayn Kamil Reportedly Denied Second News Conference [AL-MAJD 21 Aug]	52
Defector's Bodyguards Return to Iraq; Others Stay [AFP]	52
Saddam's Daughters To Return Home 'at Any Moment' [AKHBAR AL-USBU' 17 Aug]	53
King Reportedly Meets Saddam's Daughters Twice [AL-MAJD 21 Aug]	53
Saddam's Wife Not To Visit Without 'Official' Invitation [AL-MAJD 21 Aug]	53
Officials Deny Report on Trip by Saddam Sister [AFP]	54
Saddam's Relatives Reportedly Fail To See Daughters [AL-MAJD 21 Aug]	54
Paper Says al-Kabariti in Hospital Due to Illness [AL-ASWAQ 21 Aug]	54

SYRIA

Jerusalem Blast, 'Arafat's Reaction Reported [Damascus Radio]	55
Recent 'Terrorist Operations' in Paris Condemned [Damascus Radio]	55

SOUTH ASIA

India

Reportage Continues on Tourists' Kidnapping	56
Intelligence Agents Said Involved [AFP]	56
Al-Faran Warns Against Rescue Attempt [AFP]	56
Further on al-Faran Warning [AFP]	56
Authorities Say 'No Breakthrough' [Delhi Radio]	57
Rao: 'All Possible Efforts' Being Made [Delhi Radio]	57
AFP on Government Spokesman's Remarks	58
Kashmir Government Denies Planning Rescue [Delhi TV]	58
'Latest Information' Says Tourists 'Safe' [Delhi Radio]	58
Possible Raid To Free Tourists Discussed [Islamabad TV]	58
Negotiators Reportedly Meet al-Faran Envoys [AFP]	58
Plans for Military Operation Denied [Delhi Radio]	59
Authorities Continue Efforts [Dehi Radio]	59
Press, Radio Comment on Death of Foreign Tourist	59
'Shock Waves' From Hostage's Death Viewed [THE HINDU 15 Aug]	59
Pakistan Blamed for Hostage Crisis [NAVBHARAT TIMES 16 Aug]	60
Norwegian's Death 'Act of Barbarism' [Delhi Radio]	60
'Worth' of Westerner's Life Examined [THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 18 Aug]	61
Article Assails al-Faran's 'Dastardly Act' [THE HINDU 19 Aug]	62

Iran

IRNA Chief Interviewed on Iraqi Defections [Tehran TV]	64
Motives Behind Pelletreau Visit to Jordan Viewed [Tehran Radio]	68
Iraqi Defections; U.S., Jordanian Positions Viewed [SALAM 13 Aug]	68
Editorial Criticizes U.S. 'Meddling' Over Iraq [IRNA]	69
Daily Says Fate of Iraq Should Be Decided by Iraqis [IRNA]	70
Ekeus Meeting With Iraqi Defector 'Crucial' for UN [Tehran Radio]	70
Forces Within France Blaming Iran for Paris Bombing [Tehran Radio]	71
French Envoy Summoned [IRNA]	71
'Interventionist Aspects' to U.S. Mideast Maneuvers Seen [Tehran Radio]	71

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Claims Jerusalem Bus Bomb; Reaction Reported

'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Claims Attack

TA2108062895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0614 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has just entered the studio with a report that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam has assumed responsibility for the Jerusalem bus bombing:

[Ben-Menahem] Indeed, we are talking about an anonymous announcement. A man who identified himself as a spokesman for 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam phoned me and assumed responsibility for the bombing. We will first hear the recording and then translate what he said. [passage omitted]

The anonymous caller who identified himself as a spokesman of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam — we have no way of confirming this fact — said that the terrorist attack was perpetrated by a squad of disciples of Yahya 'Ayyash, alias the Engineer. From now until the elections in Israel, our goal will be to disrupt the plans and actions of the Israeli Government and the Labor Party, he said. When I asked him why they perpetrated the attack, he replied that Rabin had launched an all-out war against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and that he will be held accountable for it.

'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Issues Communiqué

JN2108104795 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian
Arab Radio in Arabic 1032 GMT 21 Aug 95

["Military communiqué issued by the Battalions of Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, disciples of engineer Yahya 'Ayyash"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Nay, we hurl the truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold, falsehood doth perish. [Koranic verses]

The slogan of our current military campaign is: The government of the Zionist enemy will pay the price of the all-out war it is launching against Islam and Muslims.

Our Islamic masses everywhere: The Battalions of Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam announces its responsibility for the daring martyrdom-seeking operation which shook the heart of the Zionist entity this morning, Mon-

day, 21 August 1995. The operation resulted in the death and injury of more than 100 Zionist soldiers and settlers.

One of our living martyrs boarded a Zionist double bus at a certain place. When the bus arrived at a large Zionist complex, our hero martyr detonated a large explosive charge in his possession in order to rise to glory, to the Eden gardens of eternity awaiting the righteous.

The military communiqué issued by the battalions of martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, disciples of engineer Yahya 'Ayyash in the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, added: This operation is carried out as part of an organized and well-studied military campaign the al-Qassam Battalions Command has decided to carry out under the slogan "The Enemy Government Will Pay the Price of the All-Out War It Is Launching Against Islam and Muslims." Accordingly, the Ramat Gan operation was carried out last month, and the al-Quds [Jerusalem] operation. The future will carry a nightmare that will be disturbing and horrifying to the Zionists, the occupiers of our people and land.

What we want to emphasize in this communiqué are the following:

1. The Labor Party, led by terrorist number one Yitzhaq Rabin, will be mistaken to think that the all-out war declared against the Hamas Movement in the wake of the famous Dizengov operation will terminate the Hamas Movement. The coming days will prove to all that the Hamas 'Izz-al-Din battalions are stronger than what this insane old man thinks. Let the head of the enemy government know that the battalions command has organized its cards quite well from now to the end of the next Zionist elections in order to reply in the appropriate manner to Rabin's all-out war against Islam and Muslims.
2. This heroic attack comes to emphasize to our detainees in the prisons of criminal Rabin, headed by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and our people whose lands are being confiscated in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and our people in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and all locations of the Palestinian Diaspora, that the fighters of al-Qassam battalions and the sons of the proud Hamas Movement are proceeding along the path of resistance and liberation until victory or martyrdom.
3. We advise the self-rule authority, which is guarding the interests of the Zionist entity in the areas under its control, not to commit a sin toward the Hamas sons in Gaza. This authority must not involve itself in a confrontation with the sons of our people because Palestinian blood is sacred and the one who sheds it is a criminal. 'Arafat's authority must not forget the first Palestinian bullet fired at the Zionist occupation

in 1965. Let us all be loyal to the blood of [Khalil] al-Wazir, Abu-Jihad, the commander Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], and all the righteous martyrs of the Palestinian revolution, who were slain by Rabin's hands, which are smeared with Palestinian blood.

The military communique issued by the Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, disciples of Engineer Yahya 'Ayyash, went on:

Our masses, followers of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him, the grandchildren of the prophet's companions: It is no coincidence that this heroic attack has coincided with the anniversary of burning the al-Aqsa Mosque at the hands of Zionist gangs. This is what God has decreed and this is God's true promise.

Our people: We wed to you our second unknown martyr who followed the first martyr that carried out the Ramat Gan operation last month. The al-Qassam Battalions asserts to you that it will reveal the names of the martyrs of the campaign as soon as it ends.

God is with us, and may all the occupiers and their stooges be accursed. It is a jihad, victory or martyrdom.

[Signed] Martyr 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, the military organ of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, disciples of Engineer Yahya 'Ayyash

[Date] Palestine, Monday, 21 August 1995

'Arafat Denounces 'Ugly Crime'

JN2108092895 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0900 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has expressed his denunciation and condemnation of the ugly crime in Jerusalem this morning. He said: We are against all actions targeting innocent civilians.

In a statement to PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, President 'Arafat said such operations, whose executors receive orders from abroad, are meant to undermine and obstruct the peace process. He hoped the incident will not affect the peace talks. President Yasir 'Arafat also offered his condolences to the families of the innocent victims. Details are in the following report from Gaza:

[Begin 'Adil al-Za'nun recording] President Yasir 'Arafat condemned the Israeli bus bombing in the Ramat Eshkol area in Jerusalem this morning in which five Israelis were killed and 103 others were wounded. In statements to reporters, President 'Arafat added that under no circumstances whatsoever should civilians be harmed or actions be carried out against secure civilians. The president said that according to infor-

mation available to him, no party has thus far claimed responsibility for the incident.

In a related development, Justice Minister Furayh Abu-Middayn said this operation may have a devastating effect on the peace process. He added that there is a systematic and programmed process going on between the two extremist parties to the peace process—the Palestinian and Israeli parties. Abu-Middayn referred to what he termed the war of hills triggered by the Israeli settlers and said these are reactions here and there.

Major General Nasr Yusuf, director general of the Public Security Forces, said such incidents do not serve the peace process and the confidence-building measures between the Palestinians and Israelis. He added: We will not allow the National Authority areas to be a shelter or springboard for such actions.

Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayidah, official in charge of national security, hoped the incident will not adversely affect the peace process. He stressed that such an action is impermissible under the peace march we are launching. He said the incident is an ugly action. [end recording]

'Initial' Arab Reaction Reported

TA2108073695 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0640 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here are initial reactions to the bus bombing in Jerusalem: Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, a leading member of Fatah in the Gaza Strip, denounced the terrorist attack. It is a shocking attack and an attempt to pull us backwards, he said. The Gaza man-in-the-street is against such attacks, and I hope this event will not affect the expected signing of the agreement and the talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Husayn Sulayman, spokesman of the Committee of Arab Local Councils, condemned the Jerusalem bombing:

Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement in Israel, said: We are at a loss for words and must search for new ones to denounce it. We have been shown that the peoples are victims of mutual violence. I hope we will manage to overcome this problem between the two peoples, Darwish said. I would like to send my condolences to the bereaved families and to wish a speedy recovery to the wounded, he added.

At this point, there has been no official reaction to the bombing on the part of the Palestinian Authority except for what we heard from Abu-Zayidah, who is the official

in charge of the Israeli desk in the Palestinian Planning Ministry.

Kanafani Condemns Bus Bombing

JN2108083095 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic*
0717 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by Yasir 'Atilah; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] Good morning, Mr. Marwan Kanafani, adviser to the president of the Palestinian Authority. What is your comment on the sabotage incident this morning in Jerusalem?

[Kanafani] You know that the president has condemned this act. I also condemned it. We do not think that it serves the cause of peace. It harms civilians and harms the cause of the Palestinian people. We think this is a continuation of the operations of the enemies of peace, on both sides, who do not want peace. As I told you, this will not stop unless we go ahead with the peace process and the peace momentum because this is the natural reaction.

['Atilah] Will any steps be taken, especially since an element of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has called and claimed responsibility...

[Kanafani, interrupting] I do not think that responsibility should be determined by someone who calls a radio and claims responsibility. We will conduct the necessary investigations to determine who is responsible. But we should not hasten to accuse someone because a person has called. These matters need a calm reaction.

['Atilah] Do you think that this attack has anything to do with the fact that a date to sign the agreement was approaching and that progress was being made quickly in the negotiating track?

[Kanafani] I am certain that the fact that a date for the signing was approaching — despite the fact that the signing was delayed because of the intransigence on some issues — makes the enemies of peace from both sides think that they can stop the peace process. This is why I told you that the peace process is the reply to these hostile actions from any side toward the peace we all want.

['Atilah] Mr. Marwan Kanafani, adviser to the president of the Palestinian Authority, thank you very much.

[Kanafani] You are welcome.

Further on Kanafani Remarks

JN2108120095 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1115 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Interview with Marwan Kanafani, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by 'Arif Salim; place not given; from the "Today's Events" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Salim] We have with us on the phone Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, who is currently in Amman. Good evening brother Marwan Kanafani.

[Kanafani] Good evening to you.

[Salim] What is your comment on the Jerusalem operation this morning?

[Kanafani] The operation is directed against, and harmful to, the Palestinian side more than any other side, in terms of the ugly attack on civilians, which is prohibited by all laws, morals, and religious values. I think those who carried out the operation want to give a justification to the Israeli settlers to close our institutions in Jerusalem, seize Islamic shrines, not to evacuate from the Palestinian territories, keep the Palestinians hostage to Israeli military occupation, and prevent any progress or deployment of the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank to rid it of the nightmare of occupation. All this is harmful, of course, to us and to our objectives and hopes.

[Salim] But Mr. Kanafani, the Israeli closure will lead to no result.

[Kanafani] Of course, the closure will lead to no result because pursuing the peace process is what can lead to tranquility. Everyone must understand that the delay in implementing peace gives the enemies of peace on both sides — and I stress on both sides — the impression that they will be able to halt the peace process. This impression will promote a climate that is hostile to the peace process. Therefore, the solution and remedy to these matters is more implementation of peace, more evacuation of the Palestinian occupied territories, and more deployment of the National Authority, which can impose law and order and protect the lives, property, and honor of the Palestinian people.

[Salim] We can also argue that there are legitimate and necessary questions in the Palestinian street. Has closure become a policy followed by the Israeli Government?

[Kanafani] Closure is not a good response to the violent operations. It has not prevented these operations and did not prevent a Zionist settler from opening fire and killing a Palestinian citizen last week. Extremists on both sides benefit from the measures taken by Israel, especially

the closure, which promotes a climate that is hostile to the peace process and places the entire peace process at a crossroads. What we need is more peace to tackle extremism on both sides.

[Salim] We thank Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, who is in Amman.

[Kanafani] You are welcome.

Orient House Condemns Attack

TA2108101095 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0948 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago, Orient House issued a statement saying the Jerusalem attack constitutes a blow to the peace efforts in the region. This attack harms the national interests of the Palestinian people and gives the Israeli Government legitimacy to impose a siege and collective punishments on the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The statement goes on to say that this terrible blast coincides with the aims of the extreme right-wing elements in Israel, who are calling for an end to the negotiations and the reinforcement of the settlements.

The statement expresses regret and denounces the attack, which constitutes yet another link in the chain of violence in the region. The statement reads: We wish to express our condolences to the families of the dead and wounded and to urge the Israeli Government not to impose collective punishment on our nation and to facilitate the negotiations with the Palestinian Authority over the implementation of Oslo B. This is the only appropriate answer to the enemies of peace.

Justice Minister on 'Most Serious Operation'

JN2108074095 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic*
0640 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice in the Palestinian Authority, by 'Umar Zaydani; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zaydani] It seems that whenever there is relaxation and progress and whenever the security cordon is lifted and progress is made in Taba, an incident of this kind occurs. What is your comment?

[Abu-Middayn] It is a new misfortune that afflicts the peace process. Probably, it is the most serious operation that could finish off the peace process. You know that elections are coming up. The Israeli Government has become very weak, and I doubt whether the peace process will continue on conditions that are fair to

both sides. However, this operation has given a chance to extremists on both sides to prove their destructive policy on the peace process. On the Palestinian side, the extremists say: We are here and we will not allow you to reach the West Bank and we will prevent the continuation of peace and we will destroy the Palestinian dream of peace, which has started bearing fruit. We are inflicting collective punishment on the Palestinian people by Palestinian hands. This is very serious and is manifested in closures, denial of the means of livelihood, and the Arab world not helping us. This operation has produced destructive effects on both sides. I pray to God that sane people will be able to overcome its effects, although I believe that the operation might be a shot in the head of the peace process. In brief, I have nothing to say about an operation that targeted the peace process. It was not an act of resistance to remove occupation or liberate lands or achieve any other goal for the Palestinian people. It only sought to destroy the peace process by striking at ordinary Israeli citizens in Israeli streets.

[Zaydani] Have you in the Palestinian leadership made any contacts? What is the reaction of Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority?

[Abu-Middayn] As a matter of fact, I will see Yasir 'Arafat at exactly 1000. Certainly, a wave of denunciation prevails throughout Palestinian Authority establishments. The Palestinian Authority was shocked by what happened. I believe this is the same feeling of President 'Arafat. This is a service to the devil, no more, no less.

[Zaydani] The negotiations are going on in Elat. Despite the fact that this incident is tragic, painful, and criminal, do you believe that the talks should be advanced?

[Abu-Middayn] Yes, and there is no other alternative but to accelerate matters. This is a lesson to all parties. We told Mr. Rabin and the Israeli side: Please accelerate matters, please let us create a new reality, and the small differences will be resolved in the future. The peace process is stumbling, and this gives a justification to some extremist wings that carried out the operation today, to say: You in Elat, look at the situation: The Hebron citizen cannot get one fifth of the water the Israeli settler gets. You also have the safe passage, the prisoners, etc. The Israeli intransigence on these issues is meaningless. Also, you have the interference of the military, when General 'Uzi Dayan fights Mr. Peres in front of the Palestinian delegation and tells him: This is none of your business, Mr. Peres. How can we bridge the gap and how can we build confidence if the Israeli stands are not firm on the peace process?

[Zaydani] But Mr. Shim'on Peres always says in these cases that there is no link between terrorist acts...

[Abu-Middayn, interrupting] This is true, and he has a clear position and he wants to advance matters. I agree with you. But the military are the people who set the rules of the game in the West Bank. I fear that the government will become very weak after today's incident to the extent of paralysis. I hope that there will not be a two-year state of paralysis for what is happening in Elat. There will not be a paralysis for one month, two months, three, or six months. The operation could freeze the peace process until after the Israeli elections in November. Perhaps the Jewish people will think of advancing the elections one year or less or more. Darkness is engulfing the peace process, and I hope that the brothers in Elat will turn a deaf ear to what is happening. But this is impossible because the public will have a strong and decisive effect on this process.

[Zaydani] Mr. Furayh Abu-Middayn, thank you very much.

[Abu-Middayn] You are welcome.

Al-Quds Radio: Heroic Operation Kills 200

JN2108062495 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners everywhere: At the beginning of our transmission today, we will carry to you the glad tidings of a heroic jihad operation, which light up the morning of Palestinian national struggle on the 26th anniversary of the burning of the al-Aqsa Mosque.

The glad tidings of the news reports, which al-Quds radio correspondents have just sent to our radio, say that the Zionist enemy sustained more than 200 casualties in this heroic operation — an operation which reiterates the Arab and Palestinian identity of Jerusalem on this day.

Al-Quds Radio on 'Latest' News Reports

JN2108072095 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0650 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The latest news reports al-Quds radio correspondents sent to our radio on the heroic martyrdom-seeking operation this morning say that nine of the enemy have so far been killed, that 10 of the 200 casualties are in a very serious condition, that two enemy buses were damaged, and that fear has swept through the ranks of the Zionist enemy soldiers and settlers.

Israeli Police Sources Cited on Casualties

JN2108070995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Five were killed and 103 injured in an Israeli bus explosion in Jerusalem this morning, according to Israeli police sources.

Hamas Members Clash With Police, Burn U.S. Flag

TA1808154995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian police exchanged fire with members of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] military wing in Gaza this afternoon while trying to arrest one of them. Witnesses said dozens of policemen surrounded a house in the city's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, where at least one of the militants was believed to be hiding. The fugitive escaped. It was not immediately clear if anyone was hurt in the fire fight, which occurred as part of a campaign by Palestinian security forces to apprehend terrorists planning suicide attacks against Israeli targets.

Earlier today, Hamas members protested at different sites throughout the Strip against the detention of political leader Musa Abu-Marzuq in the United States. Demonstrators burned American and Israeli flags.

Adviser Denies Clashes

JN1808183795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman told our radio a short while ago that reports about clashes in Gaza are untrue, and what happened was a simple incident between Palestinian policemen and some extremists. He said the incident was stopped shortly after it began.

Wanted Hamas Men Surrender to Police in Gaza

TA1808191895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The shoot-out between a large number of Palestinian police troops and several Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members ended this evening in Gaza with the surrender of three wanted Hamas members. They turned themselves in to the Palestinian Police and handed over their weapons.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the three are Ibrahim Nasir and 'Awwad Silmi, who were wanted by the authorities, and a third man whose identity the Palestinians refuse to divulge at this point. The three turned themselves in following negotiation.

conducted by a Palestinian Security Service committee in charge of a dialogue with Hamas. This committee, headed by Colonel 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Sardana, has been holding negotiations in recent months with Hamas and Islamic Jihad on the cessation of terrorist attacks within the boundaries of the autonomy.

Hundreds of Palestinian policemen took part in the siege on the house in which the three barricaded themselves in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. Thousands of local residents rioted and blocked the policemen. This led to serious confrontations in the course of which the policemen opened fire at the mob. Nine local residents and policemen were injured.

Fatah Official on PA Treatment of Hamas 'Terrorists'

TA2008073195 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0405 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Dhiyab al-Lawh, "head of the Fatah information department," in Gaza by Yoram Ronen in the studio on 20 August — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Ronen] Good morning, Mr. Dhiyab al-Lawh. Is the Palestinian Authority [PA] really going to free the three terrorists detained on Friday?

[Al-Lawh] I have no idea. I think the release of the three depends on the judiciary system. All three were captured two days ago in an unusual situation, and that should be investigated.

[Ronen] Then you do not rule out the possibility that they will be freed at a later stage.

[Al-Lawh] I do not know. I think it is up to the judiciary and to the political establishment's decisions.

[Ronen] And if Israel requests the extradition of the three, will the PLO agree?

[Al-Lawh] I think the three will stand trial in a Palestinian and not an Israeli court.

[Ronen] Do you mean they will remain in Gaza in any event?

[Al-Lawh] Yes.

[Ronen] Why did the special military tribunal, which was established in a bid to try Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists, stop operating?

[Al-Lawh] We must look at what has happened since April. Today there is calm, security, and stability in the Gaza Strip; therefore, there is no need for this special tribunal.

[Ronen] And yet three very dangerous Hamas terrorists were captured. Perhaps this military court would have been the appropriate forum for their trial?

[Al-Lawh] We do not know that. There is a military court, and there is a civilian one. The judiciary will decide where they are to be tried. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] One last question: You and others have referred to an agreement between Hamas and the PA, according to which Hamas was to discontinue terrorist operations within the PA. Nevertheless, there were five terrorist events in the Strip last week: shooting, explosive devices, and so forth. Does this not mean there is no agreement between Hamas and the PA?

[Al-Lawh] We cannot speak of an agreement. There is no agreement, but there was an understanding between the PA and Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

[Ronen] And yet terror activities continue.

[Al-Lawh] There was an understanding, but no agreement was ever reached between the PA and Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

[Ronen] Then the PA is not bound by any written or unwritten agreement with Hamas and the Islamic Jihad?

[Al-Lawh] There is no binding agreement, but what concerns all three sides is that the PA will adhere to the agreements we signed with the Israeli Government in a bid to complete the implementation of that agreement.

[Ronen] Do you mean the PA will continue to capture and try Hamas terrorists?

[Al-Lawh] No, that depends on Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and the other opposition organizations. It depends on every individual. Anyone violating the law will be prosecuted.

[Ronen] Thank you very much.

[Al-Lawh] Thank you.

Officer Denies Accord With Hamas on 'Terrorists'

TA2108103895 *Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT*
in Hebrew 21 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by David Regev]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Police has no intention of releasing the three Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorists apprehended over the weekend, among them Wa'il Nassr who planned to perpetrate a suicide attack in Tel Aviv, in the near future.

This was said yesterday by a senior Palestinian police officer in reaction to rumors spread yesterday about an

agreement between the Palestinian Police and Hamas on the release of the three.

The senior police officer criticized Israel for releasing the name of Wa'il Nassr while the Palestinian police were searching for him. "The release of his name created a problem for us. He escaped, and consequently we had to pursue him for such a long time. We located him by chance and apprehended him."

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat Conveys Proposal on Hebron to Israel's Tzur

TA2008085595 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
20 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by Menahem Rahat, Hemi Shalev, and Ya'el Karmi-Daniyeli]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Hebron problem is the main obstacle to peace, but it can be solved by giving the Palestinian Authority [PA] all the powers in the new city, which is inhabited exclusively by Palestinians, and by discussing granting a special status to the old quarter — in which the Avraham Avinu neighborhood and Bet Hadassah are located — where Jewish families live.

A proposal to this effect was made two days ago by PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in a conversation with Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, who visited the chairman in his office in Gaza.

'Arafat and Tzur mainly discussed water issues.

'Arafat said Israel has no cause to fear the transfer of powers. "The present situation proves that the joint patrol system works well," 'Arafat said. "It is a fact that Israelis can cross Jericho without fear today." [passage omitted]

There is no news on the Israeli-Syrian negotiating track. Political elements said the Washington-Damascus contacts on the resumption of talks have been practically discontinued and will be resumed only in the second week of September.

The Israeli and Jordanian energy ministers will sign the energy addendum to the peace treaty at a formal ceremony in al-'Aqabah today.

Minister Gonen Segev said yesterday that the linking of the Elat and al-'Aqabah electricity grids will be completed soon.

Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations Resume in Elat

Palestinians View Outstanding Issues

JN2008151495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1300 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will resume in Elat today. The Palestinian and Israeli delegations will try to define all points of difference as well as the agreed points.

Ahmad Quray', minister of economy, trade, and industry, and head of the Palestinian delegation, said he expects that an agreement on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] will be signed in September.

Quray', however, added that the major differences may only be resolved by holding talks at the level of the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships.

Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government, said points of difference still exist and need a summit meeting. The most important of these points is the attempt to exclude Hebron from the redeployment of the Israeli occupation Army.

'Urayqat added: The positions of the Israeli side on Hebron totally conflict with the DOP. The two sides still differ on the issues of water, prisoners, the number of the Legislative Council members, and the participation of occupied Jerusalem's residents in elections.

Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, minister of finance in the National Authority [NA], said the outstanding issues in the negotiations require profound and detailed discussions. He added that some progress was achieved but there are issues which can only be resolved by a political decision.

Palestinian circles expect a meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin or his Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres late this month. The meeting will focus on discussing the outstanding issues in order to reach an agreement on the overall issues.

Sources in the Palestinian delegation said the NA Council of Ministers gave instructions that the issues of expanding the Israeli settlements, building ring roads, the current onslaught on the Palestinian national institutions in occupied Jerusalem, and the closure of the holy Ibrahimi Mosque should top the agenda of the current negotiations.

On his part, Uri Savir, head of the Israeli delegation, said the two sides will try to reach an agreement that is as comprehensive as possible. He, however, added that a

meeting between President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres should be held to resolve the difficult problems.

Regarding the water resources, a major outstanding issue, the level of representation in the negotiations has been upgraded. The Palestinian side will be led by Ahmad Quray', minister of economy, industry, and trade, whereas the Israeli side will be led by Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur.

In a subsequent development, the Israeli cabinet agreed to transfer eight civil powers in the occupied West Bank to the NA.

Draft Accord Sought by End of Week

TA2108043695 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English*
0400 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israeli and Palestinian delegations meeting in Elat have been asked to draft the interim phase agreement by the end of the week. Qol Yisra'el's reporter says that smaller groups will meet next week in an effort to overcome the main sticking points: water rights, security arrangements in Hebron, and Palestinian prisoner releases. These talks will be followed by a summit between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Sources on both sides have said it is possible to conclude an agreement within a month.

Interim Accord Said To Be Signed 13 Sep

TA2008175295 *Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew* 1700 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel resumed this evening. Senior

political sources expressed the assessment that the signing ceremony of the interim agreement will be held in Washington on 13 September, the second anniversary of the Oslo accord.

Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen reports that no understanding has yet been reached with regard to the main issues under contention: Hebron, the problem of water distribution, and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

'Arafat To Meet Rabin, Peres in Late Aug

NC2108064595 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0510 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has reported that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet on Sunday [27 August]. Negotiations are under way to set the venue of the meeting, which could be in either Cairo or Taba.

In today's edition, the paper says that 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are due to meet before the end of August, but the venue has not yet been determined. 'Arafat and Rabin will initial the agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo Accord regarding the West Bank and the holding of Palestinian elections. It is expected that the agreement will be signed in Washington on 7 September.

Citing diplomatic sources, AL-AHRAM says that Rabin insists on holding a meeting with 'Arafat in this area in order to initial the agreement before leaving for Washington. This, according to Rabin, would prevent the occurrence of any crisis between the two sides at the last minute, as happened during the signing of the Declaration of Principles on 4 May 1994.

Algeria

Three Car Bombs Explode in Algiers

AU1808155395 Paris AFP in English
1526 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Aug 18 (AFP) — Suspected Moslem radicals set off three bombs inside a heavily guarded suburban Algiers compound housing government ministers, injuring several people and causing serious damage, reliable sources here said Friday [18 August].

In the boldest strike yet against Algeria's military-backed government, the attackers set off a car bomb and two other bombs inside the compound known as the Club des Pins, considered one of the best protected facilities in the country.

The blasts wounded several people and caused serious damage, the sources said. They said there were unconfirmed reports of one fatality.

There was no word from the government.

It was the first bombing by suspected Islamic fundamentalists of a residence of government officials.

The attack was the latest in a wave of bombings and other attacks by the fundamentalists against government buildings, security forces and civilians.

The attack also came a day before the government announced November 16 as the date for presidential elections that the fundamentalists and legal opposition parties have said they will boycott.

More on Explosions

LD1808172795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement issued by the Security Services today says a booby-trapped car parked in the car lot near the commercial center at the Club des Pins exploded at exactly 2216 yesterday, resulting in considerable material damage. Another booby-trapped car parked in the middle of dwellings at the tourist area at the Club des Pins exploded seconds after the first one. This resulted in the death of one woman and injury to seven other people, including a 10-month old baby.

Security Service on Suspects

LD1908194295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A statement by the Security Services issued today says that criminals were behind the detonation of two booby-trapped cars the day before yesterday at the Club des Pins area, west of Algiers.

The matter concerns two drivers who were working for the tourist tree planting department in the Club des Pins area. The Security Services statement adds that the security forces searched a house belonging to one of the accused, where they discovered a third element who opened fire on the security forces. The security services managed to liquidate him and retrieved a pistol in his possession.

Following the tragedy which led to the death of two persons, including the wife of Abed Habib, a member of the National Transitional Council, National Transitional Council Chairman Abdelkader Ben Salah sent a cable of condolences and sympathy to the husband and family of the deceased. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, the Security Services today announced that its forces have liquidated 38 terrorists following search operations in Algiers, Blida, Jijel, Constantine, Bouira, Medea, Ain Defla, Mascara, M'sila, Tipaza, Relizane, and Skikda. In the course of these operations the security services were able to retrieve a quantity of weapons and ammunition.

'Terrorists' Assassinate Imam in Algiers Mosque

LD2008173995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Imam of Sidi Abderahmane Mosque in Algiers was assassinated by terrorist bullets inside the mosque today, said security services. The deceased, Salah Boutin, was 73 years old.

Yesterday evening five terrorists were killed in a hand-grenade explosion in Boufarik.

Another statement issued by the security services said that the security forces eliminated nine terrorists in the provinces of Medea, Ain Defla, Jijel, Blida, and Algiers.

Grenade Explosion Kills 5 'Terrorists'

LD2008204295 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A hand grenade exploded yesterday in Boufarik in the province of Blida, killing five terrorists who carried it. The security services said the five terrorists wanted to detonate it. However, when they were ambushed by the security forces they tried to escape but the bomb exploded, killing all of them instantly.

The explosion slightly wounded 10 other people and caused material damage to seven houses. The security forces confiscated two guns and a hunting rifle from the five terrorists.

The security forces also announced today that their forces eliminated nine terrorists 18-20 August in the provinces of Medea, Ain Defla, Jijel, Blida, and Algiers. During these operations a quantity of live ammunition was recovered.

Journalist Wounded in 'Terrorist' Attack

LD2108085995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released today by the security services says that Oudjeni Ameur, a journalist for the daily LE MATIN, was shot and seriously wounded yesterday by terrorists in an attack in the Scala quarter, El Biar municipality, in Algiers.

Mr. Oudjeni, aged 63 years, was first admitted to Bir Traria Hospital and then transferred to the military hospital at Ain-Nadja. THIS REPORT MAY CONTAIN

GIA Orders Justice Ministry Workers To Resign

LD2008104795 Paris LCI Television in French 1000 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, Said Saadi, leader of the RCD, the Rally for Culture and Democracy, one of the opposition parties, believes that the Paris [bomb] attacks were carried out by the GIA, the Armed Islamic Group. He added that the armed groups in Algeria were recently using the same type of explosive in their attacks, in particular gas canisters.

As for the GIA, they are now calling on employees of the Algerian Justice Ministry and courts to leave their posts before 15 September under pain of death.

FIS' Haddam Confirms Government Contacts, Rejects Election

MM2108132495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Aug 95 p 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Haddam Confirms Contacts With Government; FIS Categorically Rejects Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] yesterday warned foreign states against involvement in the presidential elections scheduled for 16 November. It "categorically rejected" elections on the date set by the authorities.

Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission [abroad], has confirmed to AL-HAYAH that the FIS leaders in prison in Algeria have indeed begun contacts with the Algerian Government. He also confirmed that he was himself contacted on that matter, but he declined to give details of the contacts, explaining that they stemmed from the "sense of responsibility" of Shaykh

Abassi Madani, Shaykh Ali Belhadj, and other FIS leaders. He stressed that what is going on is "contacts for the purpose of getting to the negotiating table on the basis of the National Covenant" reached by seven Algerian parties in Rome early in the year.

Asked about the current contacts between the FIS leaders and the authorities and the fact that he did not believe that the FIS leaders were acting in isolation from the rest of the parties which signed the Rome covenant, he replied that "the FIS refuses to enter into separate negotiations with the regime. On the contrary, we insist on the participation of the National Covenant parties" in the dialogue with the authorities.

In a statement he sent to AL-HAYAH, Haddam said that the FIS is appealing to "the international community to help the Algerian people in their endeavor to free the state institutions from the grip of the putschists and put them at the service of the public, and also to sever diplomatic relations with the regime...." He emphasized that "the Algerian people will never forget those who support them in their plight."

He added that "the Parliamentary Mission reaffirms the FIS position on the presidential elections through which the military clique is trying to gain legitimacy where there is none. The FIS totally rejects these elections in the form proposed by the putschists and warns against any attempt to internationalize the Algerian issue and against any form of foreign interference in Algeria's internal affairs."

He continued: "(The authorities) proposed the elections only to gain legitimacy that would enable them to get more foreign financial and military aid to continue to terrorize the people and block their freedom and prosperity."

He further said: "The Parliamentary Mission emphasizes that it is impossible to achieve a just and comprehensive political solution outside the framework of the National Covenant. The so-called presidential elections, which will only prolong the confrontation and the people's tragedy, should not be approved in any way. It is the duty of everyone to foil that plot against Algeria and the Algerian people."

Egypt

Robert Pelletreau Arrives on Brief Visit

Describes Jordan Talks

NC1908055495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. under secretary of state for the Middle East, Robert Pelletreau, arrived in Cairo

from Amman yesterday on a brief visit to Egypt as part of a tour taking in Jordan, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. official described his talks with King Husayn of Jordan in Amman as very productive.

Briefs Mubarak on Developments

NC1908121695 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] In Alexandria today President Husni Mubarak received Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, accompanied by Mark Paris, U.S. President Bill Clinton's adviser for Middle East affairs. The meeting was attended by the U.S. deputy secretary of defense for security affairs and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker.

U.S. sources in Cairo noted that during their meeting today Pelletreau briefed President Husni Mubarak on his talks in Jordan and the U.S. stance regarding recent developments in the region.

Meets With Musa

NC1908133095 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 19 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a two-hour meeting today with Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, and his accompanying delegation.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources stated that during the meeting the delegates discussed recent events in the Middle East and developments on the various tracks of the peace process with a view to making progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track. The same sources added that the discussion also touched on the topics to be discussed at the economic meeting in Amman and other international issues, particularly Bosnia and the proposed U.S. initiative in this regard.

Leaves for Saudi Arabia

NC2008153095 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA)—Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, left Cairo for Saudi Arabia today [20 August] after a two-day visit to Egypt. During his stay in Egypt Pelletreau was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Commentary Views Mubarak-Pelletreau Talks

NC2008150095 *Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "The Alexandria Meeting and its crucial timing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the deteriorating situation in Iraq in the wake of recent events and continuing U.S. military concentrations in the tense region to deter any heedless Iraqi aggressions, peace in the Middle East was high on the list of topics that Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, discussed with President Mubarak at the Alexandria meeting yesterday [19 August]. Pelletreau briefed President Mubarak on the results of his talks with Jordanian officials in Amman on developments in the region following the defection of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's two sons-in-law and the U.S. position on these developments. Pelletreau's talks with President Mubarak are part of his tour of the region, which will also take him to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Pelletreau's tour comes at a crucial time in view of the positive and negative events taking place in the region, events which will have a deep impact on the future of the Middle East. In addition to the issues of Iraq and the peace process, which took up a large part of the Alexandria talks, Egyptian-U.S. ties were examined. The United States views Egypt's role in the Middle East to be one of great importance. Egypt seeks to mediate the situation, soothe Arab tensions, and encourage the peace process between Israel and the Arab parties, particularly since the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are scheduled to resume in Elat today. The Israeli-Palestinian talks seek to overcome obstacles that hinder the signing of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles agreement. There is no indication that these negotiations will succeed in overcoming the differences between Israelis and Palestinians, particularly since Israel has persisted in stalling since it signed the Declaration of Principles. Israel also has not complied with the clauses of the agreement on Hebron, withdrawal from the populated areas, and the date of holding the Palestinian elections, which have been delayed for 14 months. These elections were scheduled to be held in July, 1994. There is also the problem of Jerusalem, which is the crux of the Palestinian issue, and a dilemma for achieving comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. If no fair solution to the Jerusalem issue acceptable to all parties is found, there will be no peace in the Middle East, because this is an extremely sensitive issue and its scope affects the whole world. The Jerusalem issue does not concern the Palestinians and Arabs alone, but is an international issue that concerns all peoples, because it

embodies the three heavenly religions—Islam, Judaism, and Christianity.

Realizing the sensitivity of the issue of Jerusalem, Egypt is doing all it can to support the peace talks and prepare for a solution that is acceptable to all parties. Only in this way can the peace process be spared any setback that may destroy all the gains made through the peaceful efforts in the region so far. Hence the importance of the Alexandria talks at this particular time. These talks are primarily aimed at achieving progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track, because it is the key to a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. However, Israel to date has not demonstrated any seriousness about implementing the agreement on the clauses of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles agreement. The Israeli officials still make statements, especially on Jerusalem, that may destroy any confidence that the previous negotiations succeeded in building between the Arabs and Israelis.

Musa To Visit Amman for Talks on Iraqi Defections

NC1908160695 Paris AFP in English
1543 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 19 (AFP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa is to meet senior Jordanian officials in Amman on Monday [21 August] for talks on developments in Iraq after the defection of a key minister to Jordan, authoritative sources said.

"Mr. Musa will have consultations in Amman on the situation in the region after the developments in Iraq," the source said.

The talks follow the defection to Jordan on August 8 of Iraqi industry minister Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother and their wives, both daughters of President Saddam Husayn.

Probable Motives for Iraqi Defections Examined

NC1808142595 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
16 Aug 95 p 4

[Article from the "Foreign Policy" column by Hazim 'Abd-al- Rahman: "Political Calculations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Is there a Jordanian-Iraqi deal underlying the story of the defection to Jordan of General Husayn Kamil, the official formerly in charge of the Iraqi armament program, and his request for asylum there? This question is hard to answer at present. However, it is equally hard to avoid or deny. While Jordan granted Kamil political asylum and gave him an opportunity to express himself at a news conference, at which he called for the overthrow of Saddam Husayn's regime,

King Husayn out of eagerness to protect relations with Baghdad decided that Jordan will not allow its territory to be used as a base for anti-Iraqi activity.

It is also striking that Saddam Husayn congratulated the Jordanian monarch on Accession Day at a time when the whole world was still shocked by the defection. Moreover, Iraqi media have refrained from attacking Amman while pouring their wrath onto the defecting dissidents.

While King Husayn refused to take a hostile stance toward Iraq, he was examining plans for U.S.-Jordanian maneuvers with a high-ranking U.S. general. Hence, it is obvious that while the king is opening the doors to the Americans and the Gulf states, in the meantime he is leaving the door ajar to Iraq on the basis of Iraq's central importance to the Jordanian policy. All this testifies to King Husayn's diplomatic ability and skill and his political prudence, something which nobody can ignore.

It is probable that Iraq and Jordan had talks before the group was granted asylum. It is also probable that an agreement was reached between Baghdad and Amman that as long as the dissident issue has happened, it is less harmful to let them stay in Jordan. After all, if they had taken refuge in a country that Saddam views as an enemy, the impact would have been much more severe.

It is also not unlikely that General Husayn Kamil himself has his own political calculations for the future. And that is why he chose Jordan as residence, albeit temporarily. Because it does is not hostile toward Saddam and his clan, this might help him maintain some of his influence inside Iraq.

But, does the man still have influence?

Traditionally, the influence of politicians or officials in non- democratic states depends on their staying in power. Leaving the administration deals a fatal blow to that influence, let alone the fact that he has actually left Iraq. Only the coming days and developments will answer this question.

Iraqi Defector Seen as Another 'Executioner'

NC1808111895 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
16 Aug 95 p 10

[From the "Close Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Substituting one Executioner for Another"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the defection to Jordan of Husayn Kamil Majid, the former minister of industry and military industrialization in Iraq, with his brother and their wives, Saddam Husayn's daughters,

contacts were intensified to form a strong Iraqi opposition that can be used to strike at and overthrow the existing regime in Baghdad.

It is natural for America to be the first party to congratulate itself on this development, which it viewed as the first fruit the sanctions on Iraq have yielded. It was natural for it to rush the men of the CIA to Jordan to meet with the defecting dissident and his companions, since he was one of the pillars of the Iraqi regime and the reservoir of its secrets. He can be used as a major character in a new American game to organize the ranks of the Iraqi opposition and coordinate its activities. Presenting this role, the center of activity for the Iraqi opposition, might be tempting for Jordan. America might encourage it to play, using the geographic proximity, the contacts, the traditional relations between the two countries, and Jordan's opening up to Iraq since the Gulf war.

However, King Husayn should think very carefully before he embarks on an adventure that can harm Jordanian interests more than it can benefit from them. The adventure may fail to achieve the desired goal of overthrowing the present regime in Iraq. So far, all the conspiracies and plans the United States drew up and financed, either by stirring up the Kurdish problem in northern Iraq or stirring up Iraqi opposition abroad, have failed. They only helped strengthen and consolidate Saddam's regime.

Choosing someone like General Husayn Kamil, the former minister, as a substitute for Saddam, is nothing more than substituting a big tyrant with a smaller one, or a professional killer with an amateur. A close look at Husayn Kamil's past will show that he entered the service of Saddam's regime and rose high in it by the early stages in his life. He was just a bolt in the giant "chopper" that crushed the Iraqi people. He was nothing more than a simple soldier and motorcycle worker before he was promoted to official in charge of the special and Republican guards, and later to official in charge of military industrialization, minister of defense, and minister of industry. This is in addition to his family job as Saddam's son-in-law. Saddam brought him closer to him, removed him, and brought him closer again before relieving him of his post due to differences with Saddam's eldest son 'Udayy, who seems to exceed his father in influence, fierceness, and bad manners.

This means that rescuing Iraq and its people can never be achieved by substituting one executioner for another. Neither can it be achieved by giving a free hand to the men of the CIA, with their long experience gained by Latin American coups. The only way to deliver the Iraqi people is to make the decision Saddam's sons-in-law

and daughters took at the beginning of the disintegration and corrosion of that corrupt crust, so that the Iraqi people can breathe freedom again.

Commentary Urges Iraqi Regime To Quit

NC1808172495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Aug 95

[Commentary by Muhammad Al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "The Baghdad Regime Insists on Following the Wrong Course"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab Gulf region is again a top world story. Events in Iraq are accelerating, influencing events in neighboring countries and drawing reactions from non-neighboring countries. Analysts are trying to understand what is happening in Iraq and what the Iraqi regime's aim is in escalating the tensions in the region and accelerating events inside and outside Iraq.

Iraq watchers do not have a clear picture of the true situation in Baghdad, nor do they understand why the Baghdad regime insists on escalating the military situation by raising the alert status of its armed forces and redeploying them on the pretext of mobilization exercises for the Iraqi Army. These measures are ludicrous and strange because everyone, including the Iraqi regime itself, knows that any suspicious moves by the Iraqi Armed Forces are a red flag that alerts all security quarters in the Arab gulf and all peace-loving forces. Experience has shown that the Iraqi regime always acts irresponsibly and commits blunders.

The recent events inside Iraq—or to be specific, within the Iraqi regime—are not sufficient justification for moving Iraqi armies. The defection of some of the Iraqi regime's officials to Jordan and their request for political asylum far from the control of the Iraqi president and his sons do not necessitate redeploying the Iraqi forces and putting military divisions on alert. Armies do not provide internal security. Moving armored divisions about and redeploying military forces are not the correct way to deal with the feelings of the citizens, to oppose ideas, impose internal security, or secure the future of the ruling regime. This regime knows that embarking on these moves is tantamount to playing with fire. Suspicion about the aims of these moves and concern about their consequences will subject the Iraqi people to further suffering and international isolation.

Heeding the lessons of the Gulf War, the United States is mobilizing its military forces in the Gulf region and strengthening its presence in Gulf waters because Iraq has been carrying out unusual military activity basically directed at neighboring Arab countries.

The Iraqi regime's behavior and its insistence on continuing on the same course means that this regime wants to destroy Iraq and to finish off the Iraqi people's remaining will to survive. The mistake of involving the Iraqi Army in reckless adventures and unjustified and illogical confrontations means the Iraqi rulers have a sadistic desire to torment the Iraqi people, break their will, and destroy their abilities.

May God help the Iraqi people in shouldering all these ordeals and calamities. May God help the Iraqi regime to realize its mistakes, admit its sins, and leave the arena to those who understand better and who can rescue Iraq from a darker and worse future.

Paper Blames Saddam Husayn for Tension in Gulf

NC2008062195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 20 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Saddam's Actions and Tension in the Gulf," an editorial in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The world is watching developments in the Gulf with interest. The United States is performing a show of military strength by conducting maneuvers with Kuwait and Jordan and beefing up its forces in the region on the grounds that Iraq is making worrying military moves around and to the south of Baghdad.

The U.S. moves constitute a clear show of support for Jordan vis-à-vis any possible military moves by Saddam Husayn and reassert the U.S. commitment to defend the Gulf. This has been an ongoing commitment since Saddam invaded Kuwait and the coalition forces launched a war to liberate Kuwait, a war that ended with the imposition of UN sanctions and an economic blockade that has brought great hardship to the Iraqi people.

With his contradictory and miscalculated actions, Saddam Husayn is fully responsible for letting the United States tighten the military siege on Iraq and persuade the UN Security Council to maintain the economic blockade on the grounds that Iraq harbors ill intentions toward its neighbors.

Lawsuit Filed Against Israel for Killings

NC1908072895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0505 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—The weekly newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reported today that Alexandria's Court of First Instance will examine a lawsuit brought against the Israeli Government by Muhammad al-Shami, a lawyer, demanding that it pay

compensation for the massacre and torture of Egyptian civilians in the 1956 war.

The paper noted that the lawyer asked that the Israeli Government be ordered to pay \$100 million to the Egyptian Government, a sum that would be used to help the victims of war and Israeli torture.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM said the lawsuit states: While Israel is searching for the remnants of the Nazis who perpetrated crimes against the Jewish people, the world has now discovered the hideousness of the crimes committed by the Israelis against unarmed civilians who were shot in the back.

The paper adds that the lawsuit was brought against Yitzhaq Rabin in his capacity as Israeli defense minister and a former chief of staff. The Israeli ambassador has been informed of the lawsuit.

Envoy to Israel Discusses Killing of POW's

NC1908100495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 19 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, in Tel Aviv, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Husayn] Brothers, the affair of the Egyptian POW's killed in the 1956 and 1967 wars has received extensive attention in Egypt and the Arab world. We now have the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv on the phone. Your Excellency, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Basyuni] Thank you.

[Husayn] Ambassador, could you tell us something about the circumstances of this affair?

[Basyuni] The affair was discussed by the Israeli media. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has asked the Israeli Government for a formal report on the issue. I met the Israeli foreign minister and his deputy and they promised to submit to us all the pertinent facts. They strongly condemned the events of 1956. Egypt will not let this affair pass. It has asked the Israeli Government for a formal report, because you cannot rely on media reports.

[Husayn] Egypt has reportedly received a preliminary report about the executions of the 1956 POW's. Could you tell us what the salient points in this report are?

[Basyuni] We have not received a full and formal report. But the Israeli Foreign Ministry has promised to submit to us all the facts pertaining to the issue. An Israeli investigation into the issue is under way and when

all the information is gathered Cairo will be officially informed.

[Husayn] Ambassador, the retired Israeli General Arye Biro has threatened to expose those who took part in the execution of 49 Egyptian POW's during the 1956 war if they try to make him a scapegoat, as he put it. How do you view the repercussions of this statement?

[Basyuni] This is an issue of settling domestic accounts and partisan disputes between Likud and the Labor Party. We will not be drawn into this game. We have a case here and are demanding an official report on the events mentioned by the media. We will not interfere in disputes involving former army officers and arising from partisan motives.

[Husayn] Ambassador, do you expect the Israeli report to be exhaustive?

[Basyuni] The Israeli foreign minister and his deputy promised me the report would be comprehensive. They condemned the event.

[Husayn] Ambassador, what was the effect of announcements pertaining to this event on the Israeli public?

[Basyuni] Many intellectuals and Knesset members reacted. For example, the Israeli education and culture minister sent a letter to the prime minister asking him to order an official investigation into the affair. He also urged that schoolchildren be well grounded in morals and taught how to treat POW's. The prime minister replied to his letter. Though noting that the incident occurred nearly 40 years ago, the prime minister roundly condemned it. Numerous Israeli jurists are demanding an official investigation. One Knesset member, 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, leader of the Arab Democratic Party, submitted a query to the defense minister urging an investigation. There are, as you can see, domestic Israeli moves in connection with the affair.

[Husayn] We notice that attention is focused on the 1956 POW's. What about those killed in the 1967 war?

[Basyuni] We are awaiting the results of the investigation into all these issues. As I noted before, we obtained our information on all these things from the media. We will await an official report from the Israeli Government. I would add that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will not let the issue pass. We will insist on obtaining the full facts. And we will continue to endorse the peace process and seek a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the region.

[Husayn] Thank you, Ambassador.

[Basyuni] You are welcome.

Compensation for POW Families Rejected; Trials Sought

NC2008082595 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0735 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA)—The weekly magazine ROSE AL-YUSUF reports that Egypt has rejected an Israeli proposal by which the Israeli Government would commit itself to paying financial compensation to the families of the victims of the massacres perpetrated by Israeli troops during the 1956 and 1967 wars. Hundreds of Egyptian POW's were killed after being stripped of their clothes and weapons.

In its Monday [21 August] issue, the magazine says that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has formed a team of diplomats and jurists whose task will be to assemble all the dossiers pertaining to the Israeli crimes against Egyptian POW's in those two wars.

The magazine notes that Egypt has threatened to withdraw the facilities offered by its security services to Israel to look for the remains of 13 Israeli pilots missing since the 1973 war until Israel arrests those responsible for the massacre of the Egyptian POW's and puts them on trial immediately in Egyptian courts in their capacity as war criminals in accordance with the Geneva Convention pertaining to the treatment of POW's.

Israeli Response on POW Killings Due Soon

NC2008122695 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1157 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni has stated that the Israeli authorities have promised that in the next few hours they will give Egypt an official response containing all the facts and data concerning the killing of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars in response to the official request Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa submitted to the Israeli authorities.

Basyuni told AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today that the Israeli response will determine the next steps Egypt will take against the people involved in these crimes, either demanding that they be brought to trial before the International Court of Justice or before the Egyptian courts in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, in addition to demanding considerable compensation proportionate to the ugliness of the crimes.

The Egyptian ambassador added that he held important contacts in the past few hours with Israeli officials on this issue. He asked that Egypt be kept abreast of the details of these crimes and the identities of their perpetrators.

Basyuni does not rule out setting up a joint Egyptian-Israeli committee to investigate these crimes, reveal the circumstances surrounding them, and determine the sites where the Egyptian martyrs were killed and buried.

Paper on Israel's 'War Crimes,' 'Barbarism'

*NC1908080895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0529 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM notes that a confession by retired Israeli Colonel Arye Biro, that he executed 49 Egyptian POW's during the 1956 aggression, and news that some of those who were Israeli commanders during the aggression of 1967 have begun to discuss the massacre of Egyptian POW's on the direct orders of Yitzhaq Rabin, who is today prime minister, reveal an important aspect of Israel's barbarism, brutality, and its violation of humanitarian codes and international law.

In an editorial today, called "Israel and War Crimes," the paper declares that these issues will not be allowed to pass without investigation and taking those responsible to task. AL-AHRAM says there will be a demand to regard events as war crimes not subject to the statute of limitations. It points out that Israel has many precedents in pursuing those who were accused of killing Jews during World War II.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying: The Egyptian Foreign Ministry's request for an investigation of the issue with the aim of deciding who was responsible will mark the beginning of a new stage during which the masks the Hebrew state has been wearing will be removed. Some people have tried to deal with these masks as if they were the true face of a democratic and civilized state living in a milieu possessing the opposite of these qualities.

Radio Analyzes Legal Aspect of POW Killings

*NC2008084395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0805 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[News Analysis by Samir 'Ubayd]

[FBIS Translated Text] Replying to a formal Egyptian request, the Israeli Government has begun investigating the killing of dozens of captured Egyptian soldiers by an Israeli military commander in the 1956 war launched by Britain, France, and Israel against Egypt.

The Israeli Government has sent a preliminary report to Egypt explaining the circumstances of the event. The affair was brought to light earlier this month when a former Israeli army commander made a confession to an Israeli newspaper saying he intentionally killed dozens of Egyptian POW's in Sinai during the 1956 war. He

justified the killings, carried out at the strategic Mitla Pass [in Sinai], by saying he did not have enough Israeli troops to guard the POW's at the same time as he had to advance with his forces toward Sharm al-Shaykh.

Following this confession, Egyptian diplomacy acted, conducting intensive communications with the Israeli authorities with the aim of determining those responsible and uncovering the facts.

Until the circumstances of the incident and its real causes are revealed, it must be noted that international law protects a POW's life, provides for treating him in a humanitarian fashion, and calls for his speedy return to his country immediately after the war ends. If a POW is killed, all those who participated in the killing and the captor country are held responsible. The captor country must search for the POW's body, hand it over to his country, try the killers, apologize for the killing, and make reparation in line with agreed-upon terms. Responsibility for the killing in this case is not subject to the statute of limitations.

Journalists Comment on POW Deaths

*NC2008100095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0740 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian journalists continue to strongly denounce the hideous crime perpetrated by Israel against hundreds of Egyptian POW's during the 1956 and 1967 wars, describing it as a massacre exposing Israeli brutality and no different from the acts of criminal gangs.

In a frontpage article, "They Are War Criminals Who Must Be Tried Before an International Tribunal," AL-AKHBAR Chief Editor Jalal Duwaydar asks: What would have happened if it had been Israeli POW's who had been killed?

He answers: Of course there would have been an international uproar. Newspapers in the countries that are Israel's friends and protectors would have carried banner headlines and reports attacking Egypt and exaggeratedly slandering Egyptian brutality and barbarism.

Duwaydar asserts: Whatever the justifications and reasons given for it, this crime represents a moral lapse of immense magnitude. He urged the world to act quickly to put those responsible on trial as "war criminals."

Duwaydar refers to a remark made by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who was chief of staff during the 1967 war, in which he said that this happened at a time when the Israeli army knew nothing about military convention and the laws requiring the protection of a POW's life. Duwaydar refutes this unacceptable and

feeble justification, asking: Why then have the Israelis and Zionists been screaming, denouncing, slandering, and exploiting Nazi crimes against them for decades and using them for the purpose of blackmail?

Duwaydar compares the Israeli behavior with the conduct of the victorious Egyptians in the October 1973 war. They captured hundreds of Israeli troops including several senior commanders who later admitted that the Egyptians treated them in a civilized, responsible manner in line with accepted international convention.

Duwaydar continues: Egypt did not refuse to hand over the remains of the Jewish soldiers who died in battle and were buried on Egyptian territory. It still allows Israeli missions to come and search for the remains of their dead on humanitarian grounds.

He concludes: This is the difference between Egyptian civilization and Israel's alleged civilization.

Under the caption "The Killing of Prisoners," Muhammad al-'Izabi says in his daily column in the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH that the killing of Egyptian prisoners must not pass as if nothing had happened. The killings must not be a storm in a teacup, he added. He says: Those who were killed are our martyrs who liberated the land with their blood. It is not our right to forgive or be lenient or even consider so-called supreme interests or the so-called sacrificing of the individual for public rights etcetera.

Al-'Izabi adds: History will have no mercy on us if we cede the martyrs' rights. He stresses that had those who were killed been Israelis then all hell would have broken loose and the Tel Aviv government would have exploited the situation in every way, depicting it as an act of racism worth great indemnity.

The columnist adds that the media must help the Foreign Ministry so that the issue does not disappear, ignored by the Western media that are influenced by world Zionism.

In his column titled "The Killer and the Fighter," AL-AHRAM columnist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im reviews many incidents when Israelis fell prisoner and the Egyptians treated them in a humanitarian manner. The columnist gives an example. He says the Egyptian authorities permitted an Israeli pilot to raise a small cat in his cell upon his request. They even allowed him to take it with him to Tel Aviv after his release in accordance with international law and norms toward which civilized countries are committed.

In his column 'Abd-al-Mun'im says the vile cheap killer Arye Biro, who deserves no military rank in any army, was not taught that human life is sacred and that he

must protect the lives of prisoners and treat them well in accordance with international traditions and convention.

The columnist adds that shame will continue to blemish the military establishment that produced such killers. This crime will remain evidence of the great contrast between the civilized method pursued by our Armed Forces with Israel's prisoners and the barbaric and inhumane method used by Biro and his ilk when dealing with Egyptian prisoners.

'Abd-al-Mun'im concludes by saying a huge question mark will remain over this issue, engulfing the way it is dealt with in the Israeli media. We will not interpret this as an awakening of conscience on the part of the criminals. Until the truth is revealed the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will take every legal action to bring these criminals to trial.

Mubarak Receives Cable From Libya's al-Qadhdhafi

NC1908180495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak today received a cable from brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution. Libyan sources stated that the cable deals with Libya's position on the current Arab issues of interest to the two fraternal countries.

Devastation of Cotton Crop Examined

NC1808210795 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 10-16 Aug 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The cotton worm is almost as old as the crop itself, and every year cotton farmers, agricultural authorities and cotton experts hurl accusations at one another in an attempt to pinpoint the blame for that year's infestation.

Experts say that this season's crisis is the worst since the boll worm infestation of 1961. Several factors seem to have conspired against the crop, causing an early outbreak of cotton worm and affecting around 300,000 feddans in various governorates.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has announced that it expects cotton production this season to be down 45 per cent. The worst hit areas are al-Minufiyah, al-Sharqiyah, al-Buhayrah, Kafr al-Shaykh, al-Daqahliyah, and al-Fayyum.

The ministry attributes the decline to the failure of farmers to abide by its cultivation dates, exacerbated by this year's hot weather.

A MOA press release explained that, discouraged by last year's cash revenues, many farmers had decided against cultivating cotton this year. When the MOA raised delivery prices to a minimum of 500 Egyptian pounds per qantar this spring, farmers quickly changed their minds. Cotton was cultivated in March, rather than at the beginning of February as recommended by the ministry. It was therefore open to heavy infestation.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM WEEKLY, agricultural expert and MOA advisor for research affairs 'Uthman al-Khuli cited other reasons for the crisis.

Al-Khuli said, for example, that new seed varieties were distributed by the ministry this year, without adequate testing. He claimed that these new seeds weakened the crop and left it more vulnerable to infestation.

The major reason cited by al-Khuli for this year's devastation, however, is the introduction of a new pest control method known as a pheromone trap. This uses hormones to attract the worm moth, and is in fact more environmentally friendly and more cost-effective than the previous method of spraying chemicals by helicopter.

However, in this case extension agents did not adequately train farmers in the correct use of pheromones, and boll worms were able to infest crops. Al-Khuli said that he hoped chemical spraying by helicopters would be able to reduce the damage and prevent the second generation of worms from taking hold.

Fawzi 'Abd al-Wahid, a farmer from al-Santa district in al-Gharbiyah, agreed with al-Khuli. He added that locally-produced pheromone traps had proved to be even less effective than the imported ones.

'Abd al-Wahid asserted that devastation in the villages of al-Gharbiyah is low compared to that in other governorates. He attributed this to the fact that cotton cultivation there tends to be on a small scale, heavily supervised by farmers.

Mustafa Khalifah, a farmer from Talkha in al-Daqahliyah, said that infestation in the villages of Talkha and Bilqas was severe. He blamed the new seed varieties, claiming that they had delayed planting and exacerbated the damage.

Following a visit to the affected areas in five governorates, Minister of Agriculture Yusuf Wali admitted that this year is even worse than 1961, a year stamped in the memory of the Egyptian cotton industry.

He stressed that imported pheromones are more effective than local ones in killing boll moths, and added that intensive efforts are underway at the Agricultural

Research Centre to improve local pheromone production.

It is expected that the devastation of this year's cotton crop will also have a profound effect on local spinning mills. Ahmad Shuman is chairman of the Holding Company for Cotton and Foreign Trade, which legally owns the major public sector cotton trading companies. He told AL-AHRAM WEEKLY that about 800,000 qantars of cotton have already been imported to meet the needs of local mills. The local and imported cotton will be evenly distributed among spinning companies.

However, Shuman declined to predict this year's cotton harvest figures. He asserted that it would be premature to make any estimates at this stage.

Sudan

Regime Said in Contact With 'Terrorist Masterminds'

NC1908064895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0502 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—Sudanese sources in Paris have asserted that communications are continuing between the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime in Khartoum and terrorist masterminds in Europe and the United States. Ayman al-Zawahiri lives in Switzerland, the Tunisian Rached Ghannouchi in London, and the Algerian Anouar Haddam in the United States.

A report today in the newspaper AL-AHRAM cites Sudanese sources saying that Hasan al-Turabi sends his instructions regularly to those he calls the guardians of spiritual affairs in Europe. AL-AHRAM notes that al-Turabi is adept at exploiting religion to serve the tyranny and backwardness of Sudan's despotic, military regime.

The Sudanese sources added that the regime is like an academy that teaches terrorism, the killing of women, the burning of public establishments, and the use of poison gas to kill innocents.

The sources used as evidence a documentary shown by French Television's Channel 2 about Algerian youths in the suburbs of Paris receiving training in the use of poison gas.

The sources did not rule out that two recent explosions in Paris were prepared in the same way as shown by French television. The paper notes that the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime teaches such methods to young men from Egypt, Tunis, and Algeria.

Rebel Garang Faction Declares War on SSIM

AB2108104695 Paris AFP in English
1020 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nairobi, Aug 21 (AFP) — The South Sudan Independence Movement (SSIM) charged Monday [21 August] that the mainstream rebel faction led by John Garang had declared war on it and had ruled out reconciliation talks.

In a statement released here, SSIM spokesman David de Chand said he had received a "verbal communication" on Sunday from a senior official in Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) saying that the group was "no longer interested in peace talks unless the SSIM was headed by William Nyuon," a dissident member.

SSIM last week denied claims by Nyuon and another dissident, John Luk Jok, that they had deposed the group's leader, Riak Machar.

De Chand said the alleged coup in the SSIM was a disinformation campaign orchestrated by Garang. Luk and Nyuon had defected to the SPLA, he added.

"It is now obvious that Garang has no agenda for peace but to wage war against SSIM," De Chand said.

De Chand said Nyuon and Luk were now in the Kongor area of southern Sudan preparing to attack SSIM positions in Yuai, Ayod and Waat.

SSIM's "security organs" had asked Machar for for "extraordinary and emergency measures against any subversive activities related to this conspiracy," he said, adding that the SPLA would be held responsible for the consequences.

SPLA spokesman Steven Wundu told AFP that Pagan Amum, chairman of the SPLA's peace committee, had made it clear to the SSIM that his faction would not negotiate reunification with Machar because as far as the SPLA was concerned, he ceased to be SSIM's leader on August 14, when he was allegedly deposed by Nyuon.

Former US President Jimmy Carter visited Sudan last month to continue efforts to end the civil war there and called in Nairobi for unity talks between the rebels, saying: "I think it would be constructive to have unity within the southern command."

South Sudanese rebels took up arms against Khartoum in 1983 under Garang's SPLA.

It split into two factions in 1991 when Machar, then Garang's deputy, left to form the SPLA-United.

He changed the faction's name to SSIM in September last year, saying that it did not want to fight for a united secular Sudan, but for self-determination for the south.

One of his colleagues, Lam Akol, then resurrected the SPLA-United under the leadership of SSIM dissidents.

Rebels Said Trying To Recruit in Refugee Camps

EA2008132295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan has sent an urgent memorandum to the UNHCR concerning attempts by the rebel movement to recruit Sudanese refugees in refugee camps in Kenya, Uganda and Eritrea. It has also addressed appeals to humanitarian voluntary organizations concerned with human rights to visit the camps to investigate the matter.

This was stated by Lino Rol Deng, the secretary general of the Higher Peace Council, who also said that by doing this the rebel movement had violated human rights and UN conventions. His Excellency attributed the dissension in the rebels' ranks to the tribal conflicts between the rebel leaders. He said he expected further dissension in the future.

Mr. Lino Rol said prominent rebel leaders would be arriving in the country within the next two weeks now that they were satisfied about the achievement of peace. He said the Higher Peace Council's contacts with various leaders would continue through dialogue in the future.

Changes Sought To Eliminate Islamists Denied

NC2008132295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
15 Aug 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A high-ranking Sudanese diplomat in Cairo has denied reports that changes within the ranks of security officials in Sudan sought to eliminate the Islamists who are connected with al-Turabi's National Islamic Front and replace them with military figures. He said that all Sudan is Islamist and that there is no such distinction between civilians and military. He pointed out that all those occupying positions in the State, military or civilian, are Islamists and that the Islamic current is overwhelming in Sudan. But he remarked that many of Sudan's rivals fail to absorb this fact or understand the situation.

Elsewhere, the Sudanese media attache in Cairo, Sulayman 'Abd-al- Tawwab, said the changes were made as part of a new effort to show Sudan's goodwill toward other states, particularly in connection with the issue of requesting an entry visa from the subjects of Arab and foreign states, and confirm that Sudan has its own line and values that are far from terrorism. He added that

allegations about the training of opposition figures from Arab states are untrue. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Said Disappointed With Sudanese Opposition

*EA2008140095 Khartoum SUNA in English
1023 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 20 Aug (SUNA) — The president of the Egyptian regime Husni Mubarak has expressed his disappointment toward failure of the so-called Sudanese opposition in taking power and overthrowing the salvation government AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH daily reported Sunday [20 August].

During a recent meeting with three leaders of the opposition Mubarak said that the Sudanese opposition has been introducing false promises since their arrival in Cairo that they would overthrow the Sudanese Government within two months, the daily added. "The Sudanese opposition became as a mosquito in an elephant ear" said Mubarak angrily pointing out that the opposition has no influence at both local and international levels.

The daily added reports from Cairo indicated that the disputes and conflicts among the opposition leaders have greatly escalated a matter that disappointed the Egyptian regime and convinced it to support the faction of outlaw gangs.

Al-Bashir Receives Former Security Head

*EA2008160795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio
Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] The president of the Republic, staff Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasap Ahmad al-Bashir, received in his office at the Republican palace this morning, retired Major General al-Hadi Bushra, a former head of Sudan's security apparatus who recently returned to the country after abandoning the opposition. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir welcomed Maj. Gen. al-Hadi Bushra's return to the homeland. Retired Maj. Gen. al-Hadi praised the victory by the armed forces in the operational zones and in particular expressed his joy at the recapture of the strategic town of Kaia.

Kuwait

Government Keeps Watch on Iraqi Troop Movement

None Toward Border Noted

NC1808162095 Paris AFP in English
1538 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Aug 18 (AFP) — Kuwait said on Friday [18 August] it remained vigilant but had observed no threatening Iraqi troop movements toward its border after the United States raised fears of unusual military activity in southern Iraq.

"We have followed very closely and with precaution the recent Iraqi troop movements, but according to satellite photos, Baghdad's forces have not passed the 32nd parallel," Kuwait's Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Sabah told the AL-ANBA' newspaper.

An air-exclusion zone situated on the 32nd parallel was established by the United States, Britain and France to protect the Shiite population in the south after the 1991 Gulf War.

A senior Kuwaiti official told AFP: "The troop movements in Iraq could be designed to curb a possible uprising in the south."

Al-Sabah said "Iraq would not repeat what it did in October 1994," when it amassed troops near the Kuwaiti border, which caused the United States to deploy thousands of troops in the emirate.

"Friendly forces have arrived in the region and continually monitor the smallest Iraqi troop movement," said the defense minister, who met on Thursday a U.S. military delegation led by General James Henry Binford Peay, chief of U.S. Central Command responsible for the Middle East.

Kuwait signed a mutual defense agreement with the United States in 1991, and between 150 to 200 U.S. troops are permanently stationed at a military base in Doha, near Kuwait City.

A Western diplomat here said: "Kuwaiti leaders are not afraid of aggression from Iraq because of the U.S. forces stationed on their territory, but are more afraid of a flight of Iraqi families towards the emirate as the situation in Iraq deteriorates each day."

UN military observers on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border said on Friday there was no sign of Iraqi troop movements, while a senior Kuwaiti defence official said the situation remained calm. "The state of alert is normal but the army is always ready," the official said.

The United States has taken a series of military steps in reaction to "unusual activity" by the Iraqi military at their main bases over the last five weeks, the Pentagon said Thursday.

Washington said it had ordered pre-positioned materiel in the region to move closer to Iraq to support the possible deployment of up to 27,000 soldiers.

Iraq on Friday denounced U.S. reports of troop movements as "ridiculous" and accused Washington of inventing stories to justify sending more forces to the region.

"Washington is inventing stories to strengthen its presence in the Gulf," said the official Iraqi news agency INA.

"These inventions are like the stories fabricated by the former industry minister, the traitor Husayn Kamil Hasan, who after his flight (to Jordan on August 8) claimed Republican Guards had been deployed in Baghdad, while Arab and foreign press correspondents said life in Baghdad was normal," INA said.

'Unusual' Troop Movements in Iraq

NC1908132595 Paris AFP in English
1257 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait, Aug 19 (AFP)—Kuwait expressed concern on Saturday [19 August] about what it said were "unusual" troop movements in Iraq, although they were from its border [as received].

"There are unusual movements within (Iraq's) Republican Guard, which is a source of concern for Kuwait," Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah told reporters after a parliamentary session.

He added, however, that the Iraqi troops "have not passed the 32nd parallel, but if they do, we will know what to do."

The United Nations resolution 949, passed in October 1994 after Iraqi troops moved near Kuwait, prohibits Baghdad from placing any forces south of the 32nd parallel.

An air-exclusion zone was also established on the parallel in 1992 by the United States, Britain and France to protect the Shiite population in the south after the 1991 Gulf War.

"We are watching the situation very closely and we have made preparations to react to any movement by Iraqi soldiers," al-Sabah said.

Kuwait said Friday it remained vigilant but had observed no threatening Iraqi troop movements toward its

border after the United States raised fears of unusual military activity in southern Iraq.

Washington said it was monitoring "potentially challenging" troop movements south of Baghdad and has sent 1,400 US soldiers to Kuwait for exercises starting before the end of August.

UNIKOM: Situation Normal on Border

NC2008102695 Paris AFP in English
1017 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Kuwait City, Aug 20 (AFP)—Iraq has made no unusual movements along its desert border with Kuwait, a spokesman for a UN observation force said Sunday [20 August].

"We have not monitored any sign of unusual movement on the northern border. The situation continues to be calm," Vesselin Kostov, spokesman for the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) said.

"We have not taken any additional measures. We did not increase the number of patrols," he added.

General Krishna Thapa, the Nepalese commander of the UNIKOM force of 1,150 soldiers and military observers, is "going to Baghdad tomorrow, but the mission was preplanned, it has nothing to do with the current situation," said Kostov.

UNIKOM was deployed after Kuwait was freed from seven months of Iraqi occupation in February 1991 by a US-led international military coalition. [passage omitted]

U.S. Central Forces Commander Arrives in Kuwait LD1708183195 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] General John Binford Peay, commander of the U.S. Central Forces, arrived in Kuwait this evening. [passage omitted]

The American Embassy in Kuwait issued a statement a while ago on the occasion of the Peay's visit in which it said: The aim of the visit is to review the military readiness, and the available options in view of a possible Iraqi threat after the defection of officials from Iraq to Jordan.

The embassy said in its statement that General Peay's visit comes to affirm the United States' commitment to Kuwait's security and the Gulf region, and Washington's determination to prevent Iraq from threatening its neighbors.

Iraqi Defector Said To Have Information on POW's LD1908162195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1207 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Aug — Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, chairman of the National Committee for the Affairs of POWs and Missing Persons, said today that Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil, the son-in-law of the president of the Iraqi regime who recently defected to Jordan, has detailed information about Kuwaiti POWs and missing persons because of his role in the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait five years ago.

In a statement to correspondents before leaving on a tour of Pakistan, India, and Australia, Shaykh Salim explained that Kuwait accords great importance to the information in the possession of the former Iraqi industry minister and head of the Military Industrialization Organization, and that Kuwait has told the ambassadors of the coalition countries about the information it has about the role of Lt. Gen. Kamil in the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. [passage omitted]

On the meeting of the technical committee formed by the tripartite committee, which will take place at the end of this month, Shaykh Salim said that Iraq signed the minutes of the 13th meeting of the technical committee, which was held in the middle of this month in Geneva, and has undertaken to attend the meeting of the committee which will take place between 28 and 29 August.

He explained that at the meeting there will be a follow-up of the search for detailed information on about the 116 files of POWs and missing persons which Iraq has declared, in addition to Baghdad's commitment to provide information monthly about the remaining files of Kuwaiti POWs and the nationals of other states. [passage omitted]

Minister Looks Forward to New Iraqi Regime MM1808135895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri: "Sa'ud al-Sabah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Kuwait Supports Iraqi People, Against Their Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait — Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah has said in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Kuwaiti economy is continuing to grow, now that the obstacles facing it have been ironed out. And that the debts law, which represented the main obstacle to the Kuwaiti economy, has been amended. [passage omitted]

On events in Iraq Shaykh Sa'ud said: "We are following what is happening inside Iraq. The split in the regime is evidence that it is collapsing and that dictatorship cannot impose its power above the law. We in Kuwait are looking forward to the regime that will assume power after the present regime. Our main concern is that it should respect good-neighborliness with the region's states and lift the oppression and tyranny on the Iraqi people, who have suffered a lot."

Shaykh Sa'ud stressed that "Kuwait supports the Iraqi people but is against their regime. It has always been eager to send humanitarian aid to Iraqi refugees in the camps in Iran."

Asked what would happen if Iraq sent its troops to the Kuwaiti border to stir up crises, he said: "I rule that out. Because the regime has enough trouble tightening its grip on Baghdad and other areas. The October 1994 incidents and the arrival and deployment of friendly forces on Kuwait's northern border were a clear message that it would not go unpunished if it tried to push its troops toward Kuwait. And right now friendly ships and aircraft are combing Kuwait's coasts in anticipation of any potential movement."

On Kuwait's sovereignty and the security of its borders the Kuwaiti information minister said: "Kuwait is the only state in the world that has lodged its borders and sovereignty as a full trust with the UN Security Council in accordance with Resolution 833. So its future is safe, God willing. That is, with the cohesion of its sons and the support of its brothers."

Information Minister on Defection of Iraq's Hasan

*LD1908194995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1812 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[All quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Aug (KUNA) — Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti information minister, today described Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil, the former Iraqi minister of industry and minerals, who defected recently to Jordan, as "a war criminal," and said that Kuwait had taken all the necessary measures and precautions for any developments that could take place in the arena.

Shaykh Sa'ud said in a statement to KUNA "we should not forget that Husayn Kamil is one of the most prominent aides of the tyrant of Iraq, and a war criminal. We should not be extremely happy at the issue of his defection, and should deal with it with caution and vigilance." [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti information minister added that the defection of Husayn Kamil will open the door for the

defection of more supporters of the Iraqi regime, and we welcome this orientation, a matter that will weaken the regime and smash its capabilities inside and outside Iraq."

Shaykh Sa'ud said that Husayn Kamil's defection will not affect our just and legitimate demands from the Iraqi regime, which are: Complete adherence to all the Security Council's resolutions, at the top of which is the release of all Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti prisoners detained by it." [passage omitted]

Concerning the situation inside Iraq, the Kuwaiti information minister said we are closely monitoring the unusual movements of the forces of the Iraqi regime in northern and southern Iraq, and we have taken all the military and civil measures to confront any emergency that could ensue from these movements."

Shaykh Sa'ud described the Iraqi regime as "nearing its end," and said "the countdown for the collapse of the Iraqi regime has started, and it could resort to any suicidal act to divert the attention of its people and the world from its internal problems." [passage omitted]

Official Plays Down Conscription of Students

*LD1908151095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1254 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Aug (KUNA) — A military official in the manpower resources unit of the Kuwaiti Army said today that it has been decided to call up those university graduates assigned to compulsory military service born in 1965, 1966, and 1967.

The military official, who is the head of the conscription department for the capital, Major Shakir al-Sa'dun, said in a statement to KUNA that those covered by the call-up born in 1965 were those university graduates who were born between 21 October and 31 December 1965.

Major Shakir al-Sa'dun denied that the call-up of conscripts was a result of the current developments in the region, explaining that training courses were held regularly every year for those assigned to compulsory service. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Source Confirms Saddam's Wife's Visit to Amman

*JN1908170595 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic
18 Aug 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-YAWM office—A political source in Amman who refused to be identified told AL-YAWM that Sajidah Khayrallah, wife of the Iraqi president, has visited Amman but failed to

meet with her two daughters despite all attempts and mediations because her son-in-law General Husayn Kamil rejected all these attempts and mediations.

The source said this failure led the Jordanian Government to deny reports of the visit.

Meanwhile, sources close to Husayn Kamil expect that he will soon disclose some important and very serious information during the expected meeting this week with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission assigned with destroying the Iraqi nuclear and biological weapons.

The Swedish diplomat and his team arrived for intensive talks with Iraqi officials and to get acquainted with the

information which Husayn Kamil has been hiding—as Baghdad says—on the Iraqi weapons program.

Pelletreau, Delegation End Visit, Leave

LD2108071095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
0616 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 21 Aug (SPA) — Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, and the delegation accompanying him, left Jeddah today at the end of a visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Failed Coup Attempt Reported in 'Past Few Days'

NC2108122695 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1202 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 21 Aug (MENA)—The Jordanian weekly newspaper AL-HADATH has reported that an unsuccessful coup attempt against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn occurred in the past few days.

In its issue to be published on Wednesday [23 August], the newspaper cites informed Iraqi sources as saying that three senior officers with the rank of major general, one brigadier general, and two colonels were arrested in the wake of this attempt.

The sources added that two Iraqi Army brigades moved on four fronts with the intention of storming the radio station, the intelligence service headquarters, the Republican Palace, and the military intelligence headquarters at 0400 on the day of the coup. The attempt nearly succeeded, but the group scheduled to storm the military intelligence building failed to do so.

The sources say that the coup attempt was followed by an extensive campaign of physical liquidations that involved the coup planners, including Major General Khaz'al al-Tikriti, Major General Sulayman al-Tikriti, Major General Muhammad al-Tikriti, Major General Wannis al-Tikriti, Brigadier General Sa'd al-Tikriti, Colonel Sa'd al-Tikriti, and Colonel Najm 'Abbud.

The paper reports that the coup attempt was carried out in cooperation with Iraqi opposition leader Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim.

Hammudi Denounces U.S. 'Escalation' Against Nation

JN1908111995 *Baghdad INA in Arabic*
1050 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference has denounced the aggressive U.S. political, military, and media escalation against Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the conference, said the exposed media lies, as well as the political and diplomatic pressures Washington is pursuing, imply preparing the atmosphere for a conspiratorial action hostile to Iraq.

He added that the intensive deception, beating the drums of war, and the allegations about Iraqi military moves, which were denied by neutral international circles and which could not be proved by the U.S. Administration, further expose the evil objective of perpetuating the blockade against the steadfast Iraqi people.

Hammudi called on the Arab masses and their militant vanguards to expose this conspiratorial U.S. scheme against Iraq and confront it with all militant means. He also urged the Arab League and its member states to confront the U.S. threat against Iraq as a threat with aggression against all Arab states in accordance with the sixth article of the League Charter.

He asserted that a pan-Arab and urgent demand is to lift the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and consolidate joint Arab action on the popular and official levels in order to confront the imperialist-Zionist challenges which target the nation's rights, security, interests, and dignity.

Radio Warns U.S. of 'Grave Losses' in Aggression

JN1808201095 *Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio*
in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] What do the U.S. show of force in the Mediterranean and the Arab Gulf and the accompanying statements on U.S. military measures mean? The U.S. story was built on a statement by a U.S. official who, preferring anonymity, claimed that there is unofficial information on Iraqi military movements toward Jordan. The anonymous official added that based on this unofficial information, the U.S. Administration took a series of military measures to prepare for a possible U.S. military intervention. Official Jordanian sources stressed that the allegations which spoke of Iraqi military movements toward Jordan were unfounded. However, that official Jordanian denial did not prevent the U.S. Pentagon from easing [as heard] the level of military preparedness, in accordance with which 22,000 U.S. troops were put in a state of alert in bases inside the United States. Meanwhile, three aircraft carriers were deployed off Arab shores in the Mediterranean and the Arab Gulf. The three aircraft carriers are the "Roosevelt," the "Abraham Lincoln," and the helicopter carrier "New Orleans." They also have escort ships. This is in addition to 20 destroyers roaming the waters close to Arab coasts.

This military buildup came in response to unofficial information made by an anonymous U.S. official. It has been accompanied by statements by U.S. officials [words indistinct] expressing a crazy desire to topple the Iraqi regime through a series of scenarios aimed at distributing roles and tasks among the henchmen to serve this out-of-reach objective.

The U.S. Administration knows well that its wishful calculations on Iraq have not and will not be materialized. It knows that the bulk of its officials' statements are in

fact direct threats and an intervention in the domestic affairs of an independent state. This means a glaring violation of international law and international legitimacy banning intervention in domestic affairs or making any threats to the independence of any country under any justification. Besides, the U.S. Administration, based on past experience, is sure that the current show of force does not intimidate the Iraqi people, who faced throughout the past quarter of a century and the past five years in particular many chapters of aggression, starting with the military aggression during the immortal Mother of Battles. It also knows that disinformation and the policy of missiles and aircraft carriers will yield adverse results. This is because the people of Iraq have grown more confident about the fairness of their cause and about their leadership's glorious stand against the aspirations of colonialist hegemony. Consequently, the U.S. Administration's statements and military preparations are nothing but an attempt to declare a new aggression that will result in grave losses for those standing behind it. This is because interference in Iraq's domestic affairs will be confronted by faithful people ready to offer sacrifices for the sake of their independence, sovereignty, and chance for a free, decent life. Any such aggression will be confronted. The United States is deluding itself if it believes that this nation does not exist anymore or that it will remain indifferent.

U.S. Said To Use 'Iraqi Threat' To Boost Position

*JN1908102295 Baghdad INA in English
0820 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 19, INA—AL-'IRAQ paper of Baghdad has asserted that the American Administration is exercising a card-mixing process and giving free reigns to the test policy perpetrated against Iraq as part of its conspiratorial plan against it.

In its today article, it said that Washington is circulating for its malicious intentions through fabricating stories and throwing lies which most of the time are nearing reality for those who have become blind before the West hatchets thrown to tarnish facts and mislead the world public opinion.

The American Administration is depending on hatchets as pretexts to implement its aggressive plots aimed at manipulating peoples' destinies and plundering their wealths, it elaborated.

Our world of today has been plagued with this bizarre feeling provoked by the American Administration concept, namely, being (America) responsible for leading the world as a whole for what it owns of huge materialistic potentialities and man-power as well as advanced technological and military capabilities, all that

made America take it upon itself to police the world, AL-'IRAQ made it clear.

This fact has made America behave as a superpower that can occupy and invade many weak parts across the world, it hinted.

America is seeking by all means available to boost its position in the Red Sea and the Arab Gulf under a new, yet old melody repeated now and then, which is the alleged Iraqi threat within a story does not differ from those narrated before full of lies and confusion to show itself guarding peace, stability and democracy all over the world as well as the first defender of human rights wherever they might be abused, the daily concluded.

U.S. 'Lies' Aimed To Bolster Military Presence

*JN1908204095 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[Unattributed commentary from the "Spotlight on News" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fact that is no longer a secret is that U.S. statements, lies, and allegations are mere illusions that have nothing to do with reality. They are aimed at creating tension and instability in order to blackmail and plunder the wealth of the states of the region. Hence, while it fabricated stories on Iraqi troop movements toward the north five weeks ago and toward the south two weeks ago, the U.S. Administrations wanted to reinforce its military presence in the Gulf, terrorize the al-Sabah family, and extort more money to support its collapsing economy and its empty treasury by hinting to the region's states that Iraq is a source of threat to them in order to isolate and renew the blockade on it, increase the presence of the U.S. forces in the region, and to blackmail, control, and plunder the region's wealth.

Iraq, which is known for its principled positions and readiness to defend the dignity and security of the Arab nation, will never mass its troops or try to strain its relations with its neighbors. On the contrary, it is eager to perpetuate and strengthen these relations and to turn a new leaf based on respecting the political options of each country and on noninterference in the domestic affairs of states. Despite these miserable U.S. allegations, Iraq will not bow to blackmail but will continue its greater jihad to finally break the unjust blockade imposed on it in order to remain a symbol and a lighthouse guiding the steps of the Arab nation in the face of conspiracies under the leadership of the nation's hope and future and the captain of its ship that is heading toward the shore of safety, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. Only then, the

Americans will not be able to make use of their lies that have been superseded by time.

U.S. Military, Political Moves Show 'Hostile Policy'

*JN2008092995 Baghdad INA in English
0814 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 20, INA — An Iraqi paper has vehemently criticised the misinformation policy pursued by the U.S. Administration to depict Iraq as the "permanent enemy".

AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said in an article on Sunday it has become obvious that the U.S. is going far in its aggressive policy against Iraq with a view to keeping the embargo in place for as long as possible at a time the world community has admitted Iraq's sincere and full cooperation with the U.N. Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The paper said the recent U.S. military and political moves in the region, invented by Washington under fragile and misleading pretexts, unveil U.S. hostile policy towards the Arab nation in general and Iraq in particular.

The U.S. Administration is trying to exercise the policy of intimidation and blackmail, the paper said.

It made it clear that the U.S. is trying to delude the international community into believing that Iraq is following an aggressive policy with the aim of realising its purposes to blackmail the hireling regimes in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and further pillage the wealth of the Arab people to resolve its insurmountable financial and economic problems.

AL-THAWRAH also referred to recent statements by diplomats from the Middle East and senior American officials that the U.S. Administration is exaggerating about military moves inside Iraq and dispatching troops to the Gulf to give Clinton the opportunity to appear as a decisive and strong man.

Iraqis are always capable of defending their country in the face of any threat and are capable under all circumstances to safeguard their national security, AL-THAWRAH said.

U.S. Administration Said Preparing for 'Aggression'

*JN2008103495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0845 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has asserted that the U.S. Administration understands very well that despite the

clamor it fabricated, things in Iraq are proceeding normally and that the only problem facing Iraq is the unfair embargo which has been imposed against its people since August 1990.

In an editorial today, the paper says: The United States is constantly fabricating incidents and crises to justify strengthening its military presence in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf regions.

The paper adds: Various units from the U.S. Armed Forces began to converge on the Arab land under feeble excuses with the aim of implementing a new aggressive scheme against Iraq. This coincides with the tense atmospheres which Washington fabricated to provide a cover for its moves to maintain the economic embargo on the country in response to the recent developments that may be decisive, in terms of the relationship between Iraq and the UN Special Commission, to resolve the outstanding issues.

The paper stresses that the United States is acting arrogantly and recklessly and is twisting, with its propaganda and military moves, all the facts to implement its aggressive schemes against Iraq following the failure of all its previous methods to shake the Iraqis' steadfastness, unity, and resistance against the blockade.

[Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic at 1000 GMT on 20 August reports: "Iraqi papers today stressed that Iraq can deploy a massive military force on all fronts against the United States, which, according to BABIL, is preparing for an aggression against Iraq."]

Minister Hammadi Meets With Jordanian Journalists

*JN2008075595 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
20 Aug 95 pp 1, 19*

[Report by Nayif al-Ma'ani]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has stressed that Iraqi-Jordanian relations are good. This was also stressed by an Iraqi official spokesman following an eight-hour session of the Iraqi Council of Ministers, chaired by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

In a meeting with a Jordanian press delegation currently visiting Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi Government, the minister said that Iraq does not object to any improvement in relations between Jordan and the Gulf states, particularly Saudi Arabia. He said such a move will not be at the expense of Jordanian-Iraqi relations, because of the special nature of these relations, which date back scores of years, and because Iraqi-Jordanian ties are extraordinary.

The minister added that Husayn Kamil's escape to Jordan, which he said was a foreign plot, is only a bubble that will not affect these strong ties. He said Husayn Kamil took with him approximately \$35 million. He denied that the Iraqi Government started a crusade to arrest people who have close links to Husayn Kamil.

He also denied rumors on the murder of Watban Ibrahim, President Saddam Husayn's half brother. The information minister promised the Jordanian press delegation he would arrange a meeting with Watban Ibrahim later that day.

The minister also said that Iraq gave full information to UN Envoy Rolf Ekeus, who is currently visiting Iraq, and who is expected to conclude his visit to Iraq late Sunday or early Monday. AL-ASWAQ learned that the UN envoy and his delegation, which comprises 10 international experts, will leave for Amman after concluding their visit to Iraq.

The Iraqi minister also promised the Jordanian journalists he would arrange meetings with individuals who are close to Husayn Kamil, including the health minister who will tell the journalists about a disease from which Husayn Kamil is suffering.

The minister accused Husayn Kamil of being an agent of the U.S. intelligence service who was planted inside Iraq. He explained that Iraq has the least number of agents working for the U.S. intelligence service in any Arab or world state.

The Iraqi information minister concluded his statements to the Jordanian journalists by saying that he expects the UN Security Council to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq, which has entered its sixth year now, in the next Council session.

Nation Not To Threaten Jordan 'Under Any Circumstances'

*JN2008094195 Baghdad INA in English
0850 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 20, INA—US officials with their customary contempt for the truth refer to the American troops in the Gulf as allied forces stationed there to counter an alleged threat to the Gulf states.

They are nothing of the kind, they are an occupation force whose main aim is to exact billions of dollars from these states.

The American occupation is bitterly resented by the peoples of the region as well as the entire Muslim world.

What has also embittered the peoples of the region and the entire Muslim world is the treachery of some of the rulers of the region who ally themselves with the US that has encouraged and helped Israel with massive financial subsidies and supplies of arms to maintain its superiority over the entire Arab world.

The Gulf states being misguided or ill-advised by US officials have squandered billions of dollars on the purchase of obsolete US weapons to prop up US economy.

As if this is not enough that the US embarked on maintaining permanent occupation force in the Gulf region that has to be paid for by the Gulf states.

Whenever the US hears the moaning of some circles in the Gulf region due to the unwarranted expenditure by the Gulf countries on the US forces, the US Administration disseminates fabricated reports of an alleged Iraqi movement of forces.

The latest US claim of an Iraqi transport of some army units is totally groundless and simply untrue.

It falls with the US policy of intimidating these countries to blackmail the Gulf countries to fork out more billions of dollars for the occupying US forces.

According to US twisted logic, the US has the right to deploy its occupation force in the Gulf region but Iraq has no right to conduct a routine movement of some military units within its territories.

To beautify its ugly image in the region, the Clinton administration says it is prepared to defend Jordan.

The US Administration should realize that Jordan is not a US protectorate and would not be threatened by Iraq under any circumstances.

Jordan and Iraq enjoy a brotherly relation that is beneficial to both countries and this relation would not be disrupted by secondary issue.

The only issue in question is the fact that the US is seeking excuses to increase the size of its occupation force in the Gulf with the aim of exacting more billions of dollars from the Gulf countries.

The US Administration also thinks that sending additional forces to the region would apply pressure on Iraq. But the US Administration should realize that Iraq cannot be intimidated by such maneuver and is prepared for the worse.

Iraq is prepared for any possibility and would fight on all fronts with extraordinary power.

US belligerent attitude towards Iraq stems from its feverish desire to subjugate the people of the region and control its oil fields.

'Silly' To Talk of Iraqi Military Moves on Jordan

NC1908084795 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0800 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (MENA)—The Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has accused the United States of escalating things against Iraq and in the region. In an editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that while Iraq denied any military movements, as claimed by U.S. sources, and emphasized that it is "silly" to talk of an Iraqi military action against Jordan, because there is absolutely no justification, senior U.S. officials insist that the Iraqi military movements require a swift and effective U.S. response.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the United States is trying to shuffle the cards and create new facts to exploit things so as to hinder the lifting of the embargo on Iraq after exercising strong pressure on other countries. The paper says the United States' resorting to threats and force confirms that the lifting of the embargo on Iraq is near.

U.S. Attempt To Spoil Jordan Ties 'Exposed'

JN2108102895 *Baghdad INA in Arabic*
0625 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper has criticized the U.S. political, military, and media escalation against Iraq and the fabrication of flimsy pretexts and propagation of weak stories to tarnish the image of Iraq and to confuse its positions and Arab and international relations.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says the most flimsy and absurd pretext is the story of military movements and alleged Iraqi buildup on the border with Jordan and the cheap U.S. statements about the possibility of reducing Jordanian-Iraqi ties, particularly energy and gas cooperation on the part of Iraq.

The paper asserts that these American allegations are absolutely baseless and reveal U.S.'s hostile intentions toward Iraq. These allegations show once again the Clinton Administration's complete ignorance of the ABCs of Iraq's foreign policy and the foundations of its relations with Arab and foreign countries.

AL-THAWRAH adds that Iraq has for decades expressed its great eagerness to establish a good, clear, and balanced fraternal relationship with Jordan in the long run. This relationship rests on genuine pan-Arab principles in which Iraq believes and on a host of prin-

cipled considerations and rules to which Iraq adheres in its relations with fraternal and friendly nations. The paper asserts that Iraq is always eager to promote its relations with Jordan and to cement cooperation with it in all areas.

The paper adds that the U.S. Administration wants to suggest that Jordan's cooperation with any other fraternal country would upset Iraq and affect its position and economic ties with Jordan. This futile U.S. attempt is very stupid and clearly reflects shortsightedness and ignorance of Iraq's policies and principles. In addition, this attempt seeks to sow discord between Arab countries, which is a constant, exposed U.S. policy whose evil motives and purposes are well known.

AL-THAWRAH concludes that the U.S. Administration should have looked for another pretext instead of the alleged Iraqi buildup on the border with Jordan — a weak, flimsy, and exposed pretext that reflects the bankruptcy and misery of those who propagate it.

Opposition Leader on Possible Attack on Israel

TA1808190095 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1*
Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Aug 95

[Report on "special" interview with Sa'd Jabir, chairman of the Free Iraq Council, by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari, in unidentified London studio on 18 August—recorded, in English with Hebrew subtitles; processed from the English; italicized passages in Hebrew]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] *We start with the tension in Iraq: If Saddam Husayn reaches the conclusion that his end is near, he will fire a barrage of missiles outfitted with biological and chemical warheads on Israel, warns Sa'd Jabir, chairman of the Free Iraq Council, in a special interview with our correspondent Ehud Ya'ari in London. This is the first time that any Iraqi politician has granted an interview to the Israeli media. Our special envoy Ehud Ya'ari reports from London.*

[Begin recording] [Ya'ari] *One of the most senior members of the split opposition to Saddam Husayn made a move this evening that no other Iraqi politician, not even in exile, has dared do so far: a direct and overt address to Israel via television. He is Sa'd Jabir, the Shiite leader of the Free Iraq Council, the son of a former prime minister and a well-known leader in his own right. Jabir was behind the attempted coup d'etat against Saddam exactly two years ago, and his failure led to a rift between him and the United States which, in his opinion, sabotaged the scheme. Four days ago, however, Jabir received a written message from President Clinton by way of recognition.*

Jabir turned up for the interview accompanied by Jamal al- 'Alamdar, who was once a leader of the Kurdish uprising in northern Iraq and has been trying to attain a rapprochement between Saddam's opponents and Israel.

Why did you decide to grant this first interview by any Iraqi politician to Israel television?

[Jabir] Israel, from the days of George Bush till now, they have gone along with the policy of keeping Saddam in power, though he is weak, defeated, disliked by his own people.

[Ya'ari] You say that Israel had an interest in maintaining a weak Saddam in power?

[Jabir] This is the way it seems to us. Of course, we're assuming that they have gone along with the American policy. One of my main reasons for talking here is, maybe, to make our voice heard to the Israeli people as well as the government, to say that a policy, or such a policy is not really to the best interest of Israel and Israelis.

[Ya'ari] But why, if I may? Why? Some Israelis would argue that by having Iraq out of the game now — Iraq being the strongest country around and a weak Saddam under siege — the peace process can probably go forward much faster.

[Jabir] On paper, that's the assumption. But let me explain why I say it's not to the benefit of Israel or the Israeli people. Simply because over the past 25 years we have come to know Saddam Husayn as he is; we know how he reacts and his mentality to a large extent. Saddam Husayn has under ground, in several areas, one of them near Kirkuk, hundreds of cylinders....

[Ya'ari, interrupting] This is the information of the Free Iraq Council.

[Jabir] This information we have had and I passed it on to some of the allies. I don't know if they have done anything about it or not. The point is that many cylinders, hundreds, of biological and chemical — he also has a minimum of 32 Scuds, if not more than that — they're scattered in the desert and various areas. Now, when Saddam feels that he is finished or about to be finished, we believe, based on our knowledge of the man, that he will put these cylinders, chemical or biological, in those Scuds, and the recipients will be Israel. The reason is he thinks that will make him live in history as the man who destroyed Israel.

You may ask why should I be telling you this. Israel, naturally, will retaliate. There goes Basra, there goes Baghdad, there goes Mosul, etc. What have we benefited? Our people, your people, will be laying dead

because somebody thought it's a good policy to support for Saddam Husayn to stay in power.

[Ya'ari] If I understand you correctly, then what you are saying is: Once he's doomed, Saddam will depart by instigating a major Israeli-Iraqi confrontation, probably nonconventional.

[Jabir] That's right. I wouldn't say Iraqi-Israeli confrontation. He will just order the release of these missiles on Israel. He knows he's finished; he does it without even announcing or anything like that. He has done that before.

[Ya'ari] There were reports, unconfirmed — only in the foreign media, not in the Israeli media — that the Israeli army was contemplating a commando operation by an elite unit to get rid of Saddam, and later we had a very unfortunate accident with several of our soldiers killed, and apparently the idea, if it ever existed, was dropped. How would you react to a notion that Israel should do the job?

[Jabir] The Iraqi people will welcome the death, the removal of Saddam Husayn by any means. We will much prefer, as Iraqis, to get rid of him ourselves. However, if his death or his end came sooner than that, that's fine provided that it's done and finished, no aftermaths to it.

[Ya'ari] You don't think it was a bad idea to consider an Israeli operation to hit Saddam personally?

[Jabir] Well, getting rid of Saddam Husayn is always, whoever it is, wherever it comes, is a good idea [laughs]. And, to do it in a lightning speed, because if you give him the chance of a few days he may do the other catastrophic plunge.

[Ya'ari] Do you think that the defection of Husayn Kamil and his entourage creates a new situation, a real new opportunity to get rid of Saddam?

[Jabir] If Husayn Kamil wanted from the beginning to overthrow Saddam Husayn and his regime, why didn't he do it while he was in Baghdad? Because, we understand, between 3,000 to 5,000 supporters — or quote-unquote supporters — of Husayn Kamil have been imprisoned and they're investigating them. So, these are the people that he was going to pull a coup with. They're not there any more. So, we wonder how else he can do it. The latest information is that in Baghdad there is tremendous fear, electricity in the air, people are closing their doors by 7 o'clock at night, nobody is going out. They anticipate, they expect something to happen, whether it's from Husayn Kamil's people or some of the officers who are unknown to Husayn Kamil. We know there is quite a few groups

working against the regime, and those people are not known to Husayn Kamil because to them he was considered as Saddam Husayn. These people, hopefully, these are the ones that may take advantage of the situation, of the crack-up in the family of Saddam, the ruling family, and take advantage of it one way or the other.

[Ya'ari] Do you think the Iraqi opposition, split unfortunately as it might be, should or can initiate some dialogue with Israel, openly support the peace process, start thinking into the future what can be done once Saddam is gone between Iraq and Israel? We don't have a border conflict.

[Jabir] The matter of making peace with Israel is really a government-to-government situation. We understand the Iraqi Government of Saddam Husayn made three approaches, directly or indirectly, to Israel to become involved in a dialogue. We also understand that the American Government encouraged them not to, or discouraged them to continue with this dialogue. So, I believe once Saddam Husayn is removed and a proper government is set up in Iraq, I really see no difficulty in that because by that time most of the other Arab countries concerned will have already signed a peace proclamation.

[Ya'ari] But you don't see a reason why the Iraqi opposition should start now having some preliminary dialogue with Israel.

[Jabir] Well, you can say there is no reason why they shouldn't, but they're not. Their major concern — and it is a major concern — is how to remove Saddam Husayn. I mean, before you think of anything like that, let's get Saddam out and then all these things become academic. [end recording]

UINC Said Preparing To Overthrow Regime

NC2008160595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, head of the executive council of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC], has announced that he has started to take the military preparations necessary to overthrow Saddam's regime.

Dr. Shalabi said in press statements that the defection of the Iraqi dictator's closest relatives provides the best opportunity to attack the regime and end its black rule.

Journalists Invited for Possible Declaration on Arms

NC1808184895 London MBC Television in Arabic 1806 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of Baghdad, Jordanian journalists left for Iraq today to cover a possible declaration expected to be related to disarmament.

Saddam's Approval Needed to Travel; Border Reinforced

NC2108103095 Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 21 (AFP)—The half-brother of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has given his backing to a senior Iraqi official who defected to Jordan, sources close to him said Monday [21 August].

Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, has refused to return to Baghdad, they said, contacted from Amman.

Saddam has also issued a written order preventing all government officials and workers from leaving the country without "presidential authorization," according to Iraqis who arrived Sunday in Jordan. The order was also relayed to officials at the Iraq-Jordan border post at Tribil, the said.

The president's son-in-law and former industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan defected to Amman on August 8 with his brother and their wives, both daughters of Saddam. Several days later Hasan called for the president's overthrow.

Al-Tikriti broke ties with Baghdad because of an incident involving his brother, Watban al-Tikriti, who was reportedly shot in the leg by Saddam's oldest son, 'Udayy, during a family dispute a few weeks ago, the sources said.

Iraqi television broadcast a hospital interview on Sunday with Watban, who is also Saddam's half-brother. Watban, who had an apparent bullet wound to his leg, said he was accidentally injured, along with two other people, when guns were fired to celebrate a marriage about two weeks earlier. Iraqi opposition groups had said he was killed in a family dispute with 'Udayy.

Barzan, who went to Geneva in February 1989, was responsible for managing Saddam's investments and financial affairs. Rumors have circulated for several months of bad blood between Barzan and Saddam.

The Iraqi travellers also said that six check points, including barriers, have been erected along the 650-kilometer (400-mile) road between Baghdad and the

Jordan border. "At each barrier, soldiers mark the names of all the travellers, the license plate numbers of the vehicles and then pass them along to the next check point," one of the Iraqis said.

Security measures have also been beefed up on the two sides of the Jordan-Iraq border and "the searches are much more meticulous than before Hasan's defection".

Six of Hasan's associates were arrested along with the a large number of officers who were known to be close to him, an Iraqi source said. "All the belongings, companies and stocks of General Hasan were seized by Iraqi authorities," the source added.

Meanwhile, Hasan's father, Kamil Hasan, died Thursday in Iraq from a heart attack, sources in Iraq told AFP when contacted from Amman. Kamil Hasan died at the Tikrit hospital, north of Baghdad, where he had been taken after complaining of heart problems, the sources said.

"The general's father was very upset by the defection his two sons ... as well as the arrest of two other of his sons in Iraq, including Hakim Kamil Hasan," the sources, close to the Hasan family, added.

Iraq published a list of six traitors on Thursday, including Hakim, calling on anyone who knew the individuals to report to the authorities.

Two More Saddam Family Members Reportedly 'Escape'

NC1808154595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A special source has told us that Hashim Hasan al-Majid, adviser to dictator Saddam Husayn and brother of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, has escaped from Baghdad together with a number of senior Republican Guards officers. The henchmen of the oppressive regime are conducting extensive searches for them in the city of Mosul and its periphery. The regime has also announced a monetary reward to anyone who provides information about the escapees.

The source added that Lu'ayy Khayrallah Talfah, a brother of the dictator's wife, also escaped to the village of al-'Awja together with a number of his followers and disappeared there. The regime's security units are searching for him in the cities of Tikrit, Bayji, and Mosul. The source explained that since 15 August, under the direct supervision of the dictator's son 'Qusayy, a number of bulldozers have been demolishing the houses of the defectors and those who were executed in the modern and old parts of al-'Awja.

UN's Ekeus Continues Visit to Baghdad for Talks

Meets With MIO Director

JN1808114195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, minister of oil and acting director of the Military Industrialization Organization, this morning met with Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission.

In a statement to INA following the meeting, Ambassador Ekeus said: We have started serious talks on substantial technical issues.

He said he will resume talks this evening.

To Meet With Husayn Kamil

NC1908074395 Paris AFP in English 0725 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 19 (AFP)—United Nations disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus will meet in Amman on Monday [21 August] with the former head of Iraq's weapon's development agency, General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who defected to Jordan last week, an official said Saturday.

"Mr Ekeus is expected Monday in Amman and has asked to see General Hasan. The meeting will take place on the same day," the Jordanian government official told AFP.

Ekeus has been in Baghdad since Thursday and has held meetings with senior Iraqi officials who promised to reveal new information on the country's biological and nuclear weapons.

Hasan is considered to be a potential goldmine of information on Baghdad's weapons since he was the main architect of the country's arms development program.

[In an earlier, related report, Paris AFP in English at 0717 GMT on 19 August states the following: "Iraq has handed over new details about its banned long-range missile program, UN envoy Rolf Ekeus said here Saturday.

["We have received new information on the (ballistic) missile program and we are assessing that," Ekeus, the head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, told reporters.

["The talks are continuing," he said before entering talks with General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, Iraq's oil minister and acting head of the Military Industrialization Organization (MIO)."]

Comments on Iraqi Defector

JN1908181795 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Aug 95

[Report by Bashshar 'Amr]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] One day before the end of his mission in Baghdad, Rolf Ekeus, head of the Special Commission entrusted with dismantling the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, disclosed that he received new information from Iraq on its medium-range missile program. [passage omitted]

After ending his mission in Baghdad, Ekeus will leave for Amman, saying he wants to meet with General Husayn Kamil Hasan.

[Begin Ekeus recording, in English] He has responsibility for all prohibited weapons areas one way or another in his very important jobs; he was responsible for nuclear weapons development program; he was responsible for decisionmaking in chemical weapons, biological weapons. And indeed, he was rather a successful leader of development of the long-range missile programs. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Talks With 'Aziz, Notes Progress

JN1908173595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1700 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has met separately with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, and Professor Maurizio Zifferero, deputy chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Rashid, oil minister and acting director of the Military Industrialization Organization, has also met with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission, and his delegation.

Following the meetings, Ekeus told INA: We have made some progress. We are continuing talks and we have obtained new information. As usual, we will assess the information to verify its contents. Today, we received information on the missiles program, and, for the time being, I do not want to disclose the amount of information provided.

Ekeus added: The reports we submit to the Security Council will include extensive details. We neither conceal nor withhold any information. We have to verify the information after studying it. He noted that he cannot set a date for submitting his report to the Security Council because he has just received the information.

For his part, IAEA Vice President Professor Maurizio Zifferero made a statement to INA saying: Things are proceeding well. We have made very good progress.

In principle, the information is good. Our talks are proceeding well and constructively. I am happy and satisfied.

In a statement to reporters today, Zifferero said that the information Iraq has provided looks credible and contains significant details. He went on to say that he will take this information to Vienna, where the IAEA is headquartered. He described his visit to Baghdad as extremely positive.

Says Needs More Arms Information

NC2008111495 Paris AFP in English
1036 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 20 (AFP)—Iraq has handed over a "very large amount of valuable information" about its germ warfare program but has still failed to satisfy UN concerns about all its secret weapons, a UN envoy said Sunday [20 August].

Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, said his team also received new information about Iraq's ballistic missile and nuclear programs but needed more details on chemical weapons.

Ekeus, who was to leave Baghdad on Sunday, was invited here last week to obtain information the authorities said was concealed by former industry minister Husayn Kamil Hasan before he defected to Jordan on August 8.

"Now Iraq has provided us with a very large amount of valuable information in relation to the biological program which clears up a lot of missing information," Ekeus said.

"The value of the information we have received was considered good," he said. But more studies were needed.

"We have received important new information relative to Iraq's former missile program," he said, adding he was satisfied.

He said "important" documents had been submitted on Iraq's nuclear program.

His team had not received much more on the chemical weapons although more was promised, he added.

Under resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf War to free Kuwait, UNSCOM must certify that Baghdad has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction and set up long-term arms monitoring before the oil embargo is lifted.

Oil and trade sanctions were imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Promises To Verify Information

JN2008181795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Interview with UN Special Commission Chairman Rolf Ekeus by unidentified correspondent in Baghdad; date not given—recorded; questions and answers in English with superimposed translation into Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador: What is the outcome of your current visit? How cooperative was the Iraqi team?

[Ekeus] The cooperation of the Iraqi side was good. The current visit was marked by the important and valuable information the Special Commission has received, particularly with regard to biological weapons. Likewise, the Iraqi side has furnished us with significant information on the long-range missile capabilities. I feel that this has helped considerably.

[Correspondent] What will be the impact of this visit on the provisions enshrined in Paragraph 22 [of UN Security Council Resolution 687]?

[Ekeus] It is up to the Security Council to decide what to do with Paragraph 22. This is not the prerogative of the Special Commission. The Special Commission's duty is to report to the Security Council. It is up to the Council to make the decisions it deems fit. However, any decision by the Security Council will be based on the reports we will submit on issues pertaining to weapons, which are the specialty of the Special Commission. The submission of a report on the completion of the work of the Special Commission with regard to weapons, among other things, a report saying that everything is now operating properly, will definitely help the Council to make the proper decision. However, this does not mean that we completed our job today. This is because new information has been supplied to us, and we have to verify it and make sure that it is correct. Given the large amount of information received, verifying it will take some time. Nonetheless, I have promised the Iraqi Government that the commission's scientists and engineers will do their best to clarify and verify this information as soon as possible. Then, there will be no unnecessary delays.

Calls Talks 'Promising'

JN2008135795 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1228 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 20 Aug (INA)—Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, left Baghdad at noon today at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Iraq.

At a news conference held prior to his departure, Ekeus described his talks with the Iraqi side as extremely important and promising. There is a feeling that the spirit of cooperation between the two sides is still there, and this will expedite the completion of this matter, he added.

Ekeus went on to say: Iraq has voluntarily supplied the Special Commission with more information. This time, we have not faced any difficulties; and this will expedite the achievement of rapid progress. We will be able to apprise the Security Council of this matter so that it may take the appropriate measures.

Ekeus had held talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz; Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, minister of oil and acting director of the Military Industrialization Organization; and several other Iraqi officials on the relationship between Iraq and the UN Special Commission.

Holds News Conference

JN2008180195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network
in Arabic 1705 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, left Baghdad at noon today at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, the UN Special Commission chairman held talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister; Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Rashid, oil minister and acting director of the Military Industrialization Organization; and a number of other Iraqi officials. The talks dealt with the relationship between Iraq and the UN Special Commission.

At a news conference he held before leaving Baghdad today, in the presence of correspondents of Arab and world news agencies, television networks, and the Iraqi News Agency, Ekeus described his talks with the Iraqi side as extremely important and promising. There is a feeling that the spirit of constructive cooperation between the two sides is still there, and this will expedite the completion of this matter to avoid returning to those difficult times, he added.

Ekeus went on to say: Iraq has voluntarily supplied the Special Commission with more information. This time, we have not faced any difficulties; and this will expedite the achievement of rapid progress. We will be able to apprise the Security Council of this matter so that it may take the final measures.

He said that Iraq has provided him with a large amount of valuable information on biological weapons which added something new to his information. He

added: Our experts still receive information. Our current assessment of this information is good. However, our final assessment of this information will take place after we study and verify this information.

He expressed the hope that the biological file will be closed and files of other programs will not be opened.

He pointed out that he received new information on the missiles program, something which will help the Commission clarify matters which used to worry it. Through this information, several gaps will be bridged in some fields, he said.

Regarding the time the process of verifying the important documents which he has obtained will take, Rolf Ekeus said: We will accomplish our work as soon as possible through mobilizing all efforts and potential, including scientists, engineers, and specialists who are looking forward to this.

He pointed out that he will submit his report immediately after he returns to New York, noting that the UN Security Council will determine the form of this report, whether it will be oral, or supported by further details. However, he will submit his semi-annual report to the Security Council on 10 or 11 October, he said.

Hammadi Discusses Ekeus Mission, Ties With Jordan

*JN2008111895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
20 Aug 95 pp 1, 17*

[Report by Ramadan al-Rawashidah in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq announced yesterday, 19 August, that it submitted to Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons, all information on the biological and nuclear program pertaining to uranium enrichment and missile development.

Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, Iraqi minister of culture and information, said that General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who recently defected to Jordan, withheld this information from the UN Commission and ordered his assistants not to reveal it on the pretext that "such were the higher authority orders."

During a meeting with the Jordanian press delegation currently visiting Baghdad to investigate conditions in Iraq, particularly in the wake of Gen. Husayn's defection to Jordan, Hammadi said that the Iraqi authorities discovered that Gen. Husayn was working for the U.S. Administration, and that withholding the information was aimed at giving the U.S. Administration enough reason to maintain the embargo imposed on Iraq. He added that the Iraqi political leadership announced on

more than one occasion that it will provide the Special Commission with all the required information to end the embargo so that the U.S. Administration will not have any excuse to maintain the embargo.

Hammadi said: Now that Iraq has provided all the required information, the Security Council will look into Ekeus's report and the results will be evident to all, as Ekeus asserted that Iraq has been very cooperative with the Special Commission. The U.S. Administration, he added, will be greatly disappointed by Husayn Kamil because he is incapable of moving a single person in Iraq. Besides, the recent Iraqi step to provide Ekeus with all the information on its weapons program will strip Husayn Kamil of all weapons in his hand.

Hammadi said there was a U.S. attempt to pressure Jordan into boycotting Iraq economically. He added: The Americans do not want Iraq to implement the UN resolutions. We are not convinced that Jordan has altered its policy toward Iraq. However, there are certain pressures on Jordan to sever its economic ties with Iraq in order to topple Saddam Husayn's regime.

He added: We are not against economic cooperation between Jordan and other Arab countries. We do not see why there should be no Jordanian-Saudi economic relations, while maintaining Jordanian-Iraqi economic relations.

Regarding reports on Iraqi buildup on the Jordanian-Iraqi border, Hammadi said that such reports are aimed at misleading the U.S. public opinion, and that they are fabricated and short-lived.

Asked about the defection of Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother, and Saddam Husayn's two daughters, Hammadi said: We are not against Jordan's decision to grant asylum to anyone because this is a genuine Arab tradition. However, there is a difference between a political refugee who observes universal customs by refraining from political activity, and one who does not. The daughters of the president, he added, are with their uncle [meaning King Husayn] in a sisterly state, and should be given the freedom to stay or leave. This is a humanitarian request and we hope that this problem will be solved in a brotherly manner. We will not send anyone to meet them. Jordan should send invitations to meet them. How can we go if we are not invited?

Hammadi denied any arrests or changes in the positions and responsibilities of leading personnel close to Gen. Husayn Kamil.

120 Officers, Guards Said Questioned on Defection
NC1808154995 (*Clandestine*) *Voice of the People of*
Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iraqi opposition source has said that Iraqi dictator's son Qusayy is now conducting strict interrogations of all Special Security officers and of General Husayn Kamil Hasan's guards on how the latter and his followers fled to Jordan. The source stressed that some 120 people, mostly relatives of Gen. Kamil, are now being questioned. The source added that the suspects are now in detention.

Watban al-Hasan Interviewed on 'Fabrications'
JN2008164195 *Baghdad Iraq Television Network*
in Arabic 1505 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Interview with Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, "adviser at the Presidential Office," half-brother of President Saddam Husayn, and former interior minister, by correspondent Sham'un Matti and Jordanian newspaper AL-ASWAQ correspondent Nayif al-Ma'ani; place and date not given; from the "Evening Newspaper" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Matti] Dear brothers: The hostile media organizations, be they radio stations, newspapers, or television stations, reported in their commentaries and news bulletins that Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan and his son were dead. This is Mr. Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, and this is his son. We are pleased to conduct this interview so that Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan may speak. We wish him recovery.

[Al-Hasan] You are most welcome, brother Sham'un. Just as previously published in the newspapers, particularly the newspaper BABIL, I was the victim of an unfortunate accident a few days ago. As a result, my leg was fractured. Two other persons were also injured. They are currently in hospital and are in excellent shape. There is nothing more to this incident. We, just like you, have heard a great deal of hallucinatory and unfounded talk about this incident. We are not interested in such talk. We are interested in reassuring our loved ones and honorable citizens about our health and state of affairs, which is part and parcel of the state of affairs of the country and the leader. I would like to reassure them that I am in good shape, and that I will recover soon, God willing. In a week's time I will be recovered. The injury is merely a fracture in my leg, as you see. With regard to the other leg, it is in good shape, as are the other parts of my body. There is nothing more to this episode. Ahmad [his son] was not with me when the incident took place. The man was not there in the first place. Hence, he was not the victim of an accident,

neither on that day nor later. My son Ahmad has not sustained any injuries.

[Matti] Mr. Watban: We have the Jordanian press with us. Brother Nayif, correspondent of the Jordanian newspaper AL-ASWAQ. He may have a question for you.

[Al-Ma'ani] Sir, I would like to begin by congratulating you on your survival. We wish you a speedy recovery. Given the fact that we now see with our own eyes that you are in good shape, what would you like to say in reply to the charges made and the rumors circulated about Iraq, and about your health?

[Al-Hasan] As a matter of fact, I would like to advise our enemies to refrain from such cheap tactics and fabrications with which they have filled our ears and the ears of all people. They should halt these fabrications. If they are manly enough, they must pursue another method to influence the course of events. We are not influenced by such talk, by such propaganda, and by such disinformation. The family's unity is stronger than ever before. With regard to the defection of traitor Husayn [Kamil], this episode has promoted the health and cohesion of the family. The malicious tumor in the body of the family has been removed thanks to God's wishes. Praise be to God for this. This episode does not undermine our status. I am now better than ever before. May they halt their fabrications on this issue. I would like to advise them to raise other issues, if they have any, and to desist from such cheap tactics and fabrications, which they have continued to make, targeting each and every one of us for a long time. Enough is enough.

[Matti] We pray to God to grant you speedy recovery, Mr. Watban.

[Al-Hasan] Thank you very much.

[Matti] Thank you.

Journalist Claims Hasan Tried To Arrest Saddam
MM2108104995 *London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*
in Arabic 20 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by 'Imad al-Furayh: "Husayn Kamil Tried To Detain Saddam, Left Baghdad After His Plan Had Been Uncovered"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Harun Muhammad, a prominent Iraqi journalist living in Jordan, has said that the two Iraqi officials — General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil — decided to defect to Jordan after failing to arrest and detain President Saddam Husayn to force him to step down and announce his resignation from the presidency.

Harun Muhammad is the only Iraqi journalist who managed to contact Husayn Kamil by telephone after his defection. Harun said that Husayn Kamil did not intend to physically liquidate Saddam for humanitarian, ethical, and family considerations. And that when he sensed that his plan had been uncovered — or so he believed — he defected with his brother and members of the group assigned to implement his plan.

Harun stressed that his conversation with Husayn Kamil was friendly and personal.

He ruled out that it was family disputes that prompted Husayn Kamil to decide to rebel against the regime and defect.

Harun Muhammad stresses that such disputes had occurred many times before inside the ruling family, but Husayn Kamil used to always settle them in his favor right from the beginning.

He pointed out that the Iraqi president is always keen not to relinquish his close relatives. He might dismiss them, but he soon restores them to their posts. This is what happened with Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Gen. Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid, and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and his brothers Hashim and al-Hajj 'Abd [name incomplete], in addition to his sons-in-law Arshad Yasin al-Tikriti and Rashid Talib. The list is long. Husayn Kamil in particular used to get Saddam Husayn's support and backing even when the dispute was with his son, 'Udayy.

Paper: Defector's CIA Ties Began 'Year Ago'

JN1908190095 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic
21 Aug 95 p 6

[Report by Mahmud Bakri in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Those who know the background of General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, Iraqi minister of industry who defected to Jordan, and who are familiar with his relationship with the U.S. intelligence, which started almost a year ago, were not surprised by his defection, along with his brother, Saddam Kamil, and two daughters of the Iraqi president, who are their wives. This defection had been expected months before it actually took place. What was the beginning? Why has Husayn Kamil done this?

To begin with, it must be acknowledged that the United States played an important role in increasing differences within Saddam Husayn's family. The United States began to employ this policy more than a year ago.

Last year, Gen. Husayn Kamil arrived in Amman to undergo surgery at the al-Husayn Medical Center. He stayed in Amman for three months. Information

indicates that a high-level security team from the American intelligence met with Husayn Kamil Hasan while he was undergoing treatment and that secret talks were held with him for three days. The talks were held in a remote suburb of Amman. The American intelligence men wore Arab dress to hide their identity.

Information revealed recently indicates the main purpose of the meeting was a U.S. offer that the United States would help Husayn Kamil to assume power in Iraq and to tell him that the U.S. Administration men had chosen him to lead the Iraqi opposition. The American intelligence agents further told Husayn Kamil that the Iraqi opposition elements had been armed with advanced U.S. weapons worth \$13 million but that these elements did not have a leadership that could direct the course of events inside Iraq. They asked him to win over the leaders of the Republican Guard and not to take any step inside Iraq until the United States says so.

Information obtained by Cairo confirms that the Iraqi official accepted in principle the U.S. offer and agreed not to inform any Jordanian official about these talks.

Indeed, Husayn Kamil told Jordanian officials that the meetings were meant only to ascertain the truth about Iraqi programs and weapons of mass destruction so as to lift the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

The Jordanians bought his story.

Information indicates that a disagreement took place between Husayn Kamil and the CIA because he wanted to know all contacts between the CIA and elements of the Iraqi opposition abroad, in addition to the proposed U.S. plans for toppling Saddam. He also wanted to receive the main portion of the U.S. funds allocated for supporting the Iraqi opposition's activities and for these funds to be deposited in his account in a European bank. However, the CIA was not sure that Husayn Kamil had become one of its sincere followers, and there was an American assumption that Husayn Kamil wanted the information to convey to Saddam Husayn.

In fact, there was a lack of CIA information on the nature of differences within Saddam's family, and this led the CIA to think that Husayn Kamil was insincere.

Anyhow, The CIA dealt with great caution over the past period and Husayn Kamil and his associates were aware that there was U.S. caution in dealing with them.

Information indicates that the contacts between Husayn Kamil and the CIA were very few, and that throughout the past period he refused to give information about the nature of the regime in Iraq to the U.S. side, therefore, the U.S. Administration failed to penetrate Iraq from within over the past year.

Husayn Kamil linked giving information on the Iraqi regime to the Americans to getting all information related to the U.S. contacts with the Iraqi opposition. Perhaps, the lack of mutual confidence in the past period led to the failure of that deal.

This is one aspect of Husayn Kamil's escape to Jordan. The other aspect is related to the family differences that recently peaked to the extent that Husayn Kamil was advised by his followers and associates to flee immediately to Jordan. He was told that there was a plan to liquidate him physically, and that President Saddam Husayn had recently approved the plan and that his elder son 'Udayy had been the one who convinced his father of the plan. [passage omitted]

Beirut Paper Reveals 'Secrets' of Hasan Defection
NC2108105095

[FBIS Editorial Report] Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic on 19 August publishes on pages 1 and 9 an approximately 2,000-word Paris-dated report by Fu'ad Abu-Mansur on the "secrets" of Iraqi General Husayn Kamil Hasan's defection to Jordan. The report cites "informed and reliable sources" as contending that "the first seeds" of the defection plan were planted in the summer of 1994 when the Iraqi president's son-in-law was in Jordan for urgent surgery to remove a malignant tumor in his head.

The report says that during the convalescence period, which lasted for about two months in one of the Jordanian royal palaces, high-ranking Jordanian officials used to visit Gen. Hasan to discuss Iraqi affairs. "In one of the meetings with King Husayn, Husayn Kamil drew a gloomy picture of the situation in Baghdad and expressed his belief that what made the situation even bleaker was the new monopoly over the country's resources by Saddam's two sons, 'Udayy and Qusayy, with the Iraqi president's blessing." The report adds: "Husayn Kamil expressed full readiness to cooperate with the Americans."

According to the report, Jordanian officials "informed the American Embassy of the 'psychological state' of Saddam Husayn's son-in-law and his readiness to cooperate regarding chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons."

The report says the Jordanians shrouded the matter in high secrecy every time Gen. Hasan entered King Husayn Medical Center for further checkups. "In the past eight months, he [Hasan] stayed in Amman three times, the last was in the first week of July, when the final touches were put on the arrangements for the major escape. On 7 July, all technical details were decided in a secret meeting, and the zero hour was set."

Noting that the defection coincided with a "bloody confrontation" between 'Udayy's guards and the guards of Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, former interior minister and Saddam's half brother, in which "five people from both sides were killed," the report says many people believe the link between the defection and this incident is the hostility of Watban al-Hasan and Husayn Kamil toward 'Udayy. The latter "took away their influence and became the ruler in his father's name."

The reporter cites his sources as disclosing that the struggle between Husayn Kamil Hasan and 'Udayy reached its climax when the latter gained control of Iraqi oil trade to Turkey and Iran, estimated at 150,000 barrels per day, depriving the former of its revenue. Gen. Hasan was also deprived of a share in the black market revenue, according to the sources.

The reporter says Gen. Hasan vented his accumulated grudges at the Ba'th Party's latest congress in June, when he "opened fire on all the symbols of the regime," including Taha Yasin Ramadan, Tariq 'Aziz, and 'Izzat Ibrahim.

While Gen. Hasan's defection shows major cracks in the ruling regime, the reporter says, it is not serious enough to cause the regime to collapse. "It is established that Husayn Kamil enjoys no influence in the Army, the Republican Guards, or the Special Security, apart from a team of officers who worked with him, and these are technocrats and technical cadres, not field officers." The reporter adds that Gen. Hasan "is not one of the regime's pillars." However, the reporter suggests that the defection "allows the American game in Iraq to win a precious point" as this "infiltration" by Washington would be used to obtain very secret information about Saddam's house, movements, security, and communications network.

The sources are finally cited as saying that Husayn Kamil will not leave Amman for Washington or any other capital, but will stay under Jordanian protection, bargaining with Washington over the "treasure" of information he possesses.

Saddam's Half-Brother Backs Husayn Kamil Hasan
NC2108085395 Paris AFP in English
0814 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 21 (AFP) — The half-brother of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has given his backing to a senior Iraqi official who defected to Jordan, according to his acquaintances contacted from Amman on Monday [21 August].

Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, has refused to return to Baghdad, they said.

The president's son-in-law and former industry minister, General Husayn Kamil Hasan, defected to Amman on August 8 with his brother and their wives, both daughters of Saddam. Several days later Hasan called for the president's overthrow.

Al-Jubur Tribe Ready for 'Alliance' With Hasan

MM2108082995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
18 Aug 95 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Al-Jubur Tribe To Cooperate With Husayn Kamil To Topple Saddam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The al-Jubur tribe has expressed readiness "for cooperation and alliance" with Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Iraqi president's son-in-law who recently defected to Jordan. Shaykh Mash'an Rakkad al-Damin al-Juburi has made such cooperation with Husayn Kamil conditional on "a pledge to hold general elections to produce a national parliament that would promulgate a permanent constitution and a guarantee of democratic rotation of power."

A statement signed by Mash'an al-Juburi, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH, said that Mash'an was speaking on behalf of the well-known Iraqi al-Jubur tribe "whose role, sacrifices, and bitter conflict with the regime and within the regime are known to Gen. Husayn Kamil." The statement described Husayn Kamil's secession from President Saddam Husayn's regime as "the most serious split in the regime's history." It added that "Husayn Kamil and his group realized that, through its actions, repression of our people, and criminal policies, the regime dragged Iraq to the situation it now finds itself in, a situation in which we lose the homeland and the kinfolk, a situation which could lead to an endless civil war." It added: "We are convinced that Gen. Husayn Kamil can play an essential significant part in the change process and even ensure that it is completed with the least possible losses and bloodshed because he is tantamount to a guarantee that would reassure our brothers in the military, party, and security institutions, especially those in the last defense line of Saddam Husayn. That way Iraq could be spared sectarian and ethnic strife and possible revenge operations which could occur in any change process."

Mash'an Rakkad al-Damin al-Juburi added: "Because we are aware of all that, we can rise above our own wounds and welcome Gen. Husayn Kamil and his brothers and families and we see their action as brave and honorable action which history will credit them

for, and we announce our readiness for alliance and cooperation to bring down the regime" of Iraq.

He lauded "the courageous position" taken by Jordan and King Husayn, noting that King Husayn "has an important role to play in solving the homeland's problem because of what he means to the country and people of Iraq."

Opposition Leader Urges Support for Hasan

JN1908194595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1800 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official source in Amman, which denied that it is coming under pressure to sever its economic ties with Baghdad, said today that 15 out of 30 persons who were among the retinue of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Husayn when he defected to Jordan have voluntarily returned to Iraq. Among them were six of his personal escorts, including Jasim Muhammad Hasan, cousin of Husayn Kamil, Bulus Matta Mansur, As'ad Sa'id Jasim, Talib 'Umar Muhammad, Muhammad Jasim Kurayyim, and 'Abd-al-Hasan 'Abd-al-Husayn.

This is the first time Jordan identifies some of the persons who escorted Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan when he defected to Jordan. The Jordanian sources [as heard] also revealed that Hakim Kamil Hasan, third brother of the lieutenant general, and his cousin Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan did not flee with him and did not remain in Jordan, contrary to previous Iraqi statements to this effect.

In a separate development, the newspaper JOURNAL DE GENEVA said today that Barzan al-Tikriti, half brother to the Iraqi president, has refused to implement orders to return to Iraq he received 10 days ago. This information has not been confirmed by the Iraqi mission to the Geneva United Nations Headquarters headed by Brazan al-Tikriti. The paper established a link between the position of this Iraqi ambassador and the flight of Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan and his being granted asylum in Amman.

The Iraqi opposition is divided over cooperation with the lieutenant general who has sought refuge in Amman. Some opposition parties refused to cooperate with him, while other factions said that he must be deemed a key mainstay of the opposition. Mash'an al-Juburi, head of the Democratic Grouping Movement for the Salvation of Iraq [harakat al-tajammu' al-dimuqrati min ajl inqaz al-'iraq], explained the rationale behind his calls for cooperation with Husayn Kamil.

[Begin recording] [al-Juburi] I believe that the principal and important thing is that Husayn Kamil's defection

has changed the form of the conflict with the authority. This has rescued some of the opposition factions which claimed that they were capable of toppling the regime. I believe that the role that Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil can play is greater than the role of the overall opposition in the conflict with the regime. As a matter of fact, the recent defections constitute one of the most serious setbacks the regime has suffered for the past 25 years. We are pinning great hopes on the ability of Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil to effect the change, given the posts he held as an official in charge of promoting the security apparatus, the party apparatus, and the establishment responsible for protecting the regime, the regime's last line of defense, particularly in the aftermath of the collapse of the regime's second line of defense, which constituted the tribesmen, [words indistinct] in recent years.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is there a common stand among the various Iraqi opposition parties on cooperation with Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil, or are there are differences on cooperation with him?

[Al-Juburi] As a matter of fact, there are no differences. However, please allow me to tell you something, with due respect and appreciation to this opposition, drawing from my experience with the opposition over the past few years. Most of those I have met with for the past year [words indistinct]. Each of them abroad [words indistinct]. I do not believe that the entire opposition is opposed to Husayn Kamil [words indistinct]. Nonetheless, [words indistinct] enormous activities over the past few days. We have met with British Government officials, U.S. officials, as well as Iraqi opposition figures. I believe that the overall sentiment is to urge support for Husayn Kamil to effect a change with the least possible losses. I think that most of the brothers within the Iraqi opposition are afraid that the support they are receiving from the states that finance them may be adversely affected.

[Correspondent] Give me an example.

[Al-Juburi] For example, I believe that Baqir al-Hakim announced initially his readiness to cooperate with Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil. However, he announced his opposition to such cooperation the next day. Why did this happen? This happened because his position ran counter to the Iranian position in this regard.

[Correspondent] Why is the United States pressing for cooperation with Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil?

[Al-Juburi] I believe that [words indistinct] important U.S. officials. This was not a flight. They [U.S. officials] believe that the currently available opportunity for change with the minimal losses must not be wasted,

as happened with previous opportunities, in which thousands of victims fell without any improvement in the situation. Our arguments were supportive of the consensus. Some factions might be contemplating bloody change. As for us, we uphold peaceful change, we wish peaceful change, we prefer peaceful change that would protect the unity of Iraq as a unified homeland. Sir, you must be well aware that the flight of Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil has turned the tables over the heads of those who have entertained the notion of dividing Iraq, sharing power in Iraq, or establishing federal rule in Iraq. This has turned the tables over the heads of those who felt that they were the closest to the Baghdad regime, and that they would engage in acts of vindictiveness and retaliation against our people or against those who were perceived to be supporters of the ruling establishment. Such actions are unacceptable to us. I believe that Lt. Gen. Husayn can play a great role in effecting change. Regardless of the wishes of the opposition factions, a change in the aforesaid direction will take place, particularly since such change is supported on the international scene. [end recording]

Change 'Close' Following Defections From Regime

*MM1808140995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
18 Aug 95 pp 1, 6*

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Husayn Kamil's Convoy Took \$30 Million from Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The al-Jubur tribe, one of the influential Iraqi tribes (1 million people), has expressed willingness to cooperate with Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan al- Majid to overthrow President Saddam Husayn. It emphasized the need for change "with the least possible losses." Meanwhile, Husayn Kamil has begun contacts with Iraqi ambassadors and figures opposed to the Iraqi regime.

Informed sources have given a new story about the defection of Saddam's son-in-law to Jordan last week with his brother Staff Colonel Saddam Kamil and their wives Raghd and Rana, daughters of the Iraqi president. The sources confirmed that the Husayn Kamil convoy "carried away \$30 million on the pretext that he was going to sign military and civilian purchase deals in Bulgaria." They said that Saddam's son-in-law "was able to leave the country under the cover of his scheduled visit to Bulgaria, on which he was to be accompanied by some members of his family while others remained in the Jordanian capital."

They recalled the "four-man conflict which caused the eruption within the family in Baghdad." They spoke of "the conflict of interests between 'Ali Hasan al- Majid and his nephew Husayn Kamil on the one hand

and the wing of the Iraqi president's two sons 'Udayy and Qusayy on the other." As known, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid was appointed defense minister in 1991 and was relieved of that post on 16 July last.

Some reports say that "'Ali Hasan al-Majid may have been placed under house arrest again after his return from Amman with 'Udayy last week." There have been conflicting reports about the fate of Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, Saddam's half-brother. Some Iraqi sources have again stressed that he was killed "in a clash with 'Udayy's group," whereas other sources said that he "is still at the military hospital in Baghdad receiving treatment for leg injuries."

According to some informed sources, Sajidah Talfah, the Iraqi president's wife, tried to go to Jordan after Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan with her daughters Raghd and Rana but "some officials close to Saddam sent her back, and 'Udayy warned her that she would be arrested if she repeated the attempt." Saddam married for the third time about six months ago to a lady from the Hamdani family, one of the most prominent Mosul families.

In another development, Dr. Nabil al-Janabi, leader of the Iraqi National Democratic Party opposed to President Saddam Husayn's regime, has told AL-HAYAH that he received a telephone call in London yesterday from Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam, "and we agreed to coordinate" with a view to bringing about change in Iraq. Al-Janabi said that he was "in daily con-

tact with the Jordanian leadership and Husayn Kamil," adding that he was in favor of a federation between Iraq and Jordan after the change of regime in Baghdad.

Shaykh Mash'an Rakkad al-Damin al-Juburi has confirmed that the al-Jubur tribe is willing to cooperate with Husayn Kamil "on the basis of an undertaking to hold a general election, producing a national parliament that would issue a permanent constitution" for Iraq. Shaykh Mash'an told AL-HAYAH that "change is now close following the collapse of the regime's last line of defense, namely the tribes, as a result of the foolishness of the various organs." He underscored the importance of "what Husayn Kamil knows about the opposition penetration lines" at home. He did not say whether he remained in contact with Saddam's son-in-law, but he did say: "Saddam Kamil was my close friend."

Shaykh Mash'an has friendly links with 'Udayy, and he did work in Saddam Husayn's office when he was vice president. He said that "the conflict between al-Jubur and Saddam's regime set off an attempt to assassinate Saddam, led by Republican Guard officer Sattam Ghannam al-Juburi, which was foiled on 4 January 1990. [no end quotes as published]

The Al-Jubur tribe is the biggest in Iraq and constitutes the majority of the population in Tikrit. Its influence increased during the war with Iran, when its members volunteered for the emergency forces and the special guard.

Explosion Aboard Jerusalem Bus Reported**Radio Reports 'Many Casualties'**

TA2108053495 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0523 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] About 30 minutes ago, a very serious explosion occurred aboard a No. 4A bus in Jerusalem, near the Rene Cassin High School on Eshkol Boulevard. A No. 12 bus that was driving nearby was also hit by the explosion. There may be additional explosives aboard the bus.

There are many casualties. Intensive care ambulances are treating the casualties. The top police brass are at the scene. The police are demanding that drivers and passersby keep away from the site because of the danger that there might be additional explosives and because the presence of unnecessary people only disrupts the evacuation.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0525 GMT on 21 August quotes a Magen David Adom first aid official as saying that there were 30-40 casualties in the attack.]

Two Killed; 30 Injured

TA2108055195 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew*
0532 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A very serious explosion occurred at approximately 0800 [0500 GMT] this morning. Jerusalem District Commander Arye 'Amit said a few minutes ago that two people were killed and 30 injured in the explosion. The explosion occurred when a bomb blew up in the rear of a tandem bus belonging to the Egged Company, apparently running the No. 26 route. Another bus nearby, apparently running the No. 9 route, was also hit.

Emergency forces arrived at the scene, and the security forces are currently searching the bus to make sure that there are no additional bombs aboard. The casualties have been evacuated from the site.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has appealed to the public to refrain from coming to the scene of the bombing to allow the emergency and security forces to do their job without any disruptions.

Suicide Bombing Suspected

TA2108062095 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0600 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A very serious explosion occurred in Jerusalem, and there are many casualties. A very powerful bomb exploded an hour ago aboard a No. 26 bus, which was on its way from Qiryat Yovel to Mount Scopus.

At this point, there are reports of three people killed and 85 wounded in the explosion: 18 were brought to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital, at least five of them in serious condition; 26 were evacuated to Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital, one in very serious condition and seven in moderate condition; 41 casualties have so far been brought to Sha'arey Tzedeq Hospital.

Jerusalem District Police Commander Arye 'Amit said that this was apparently a suicide bombing. The explosion took place at the junction near the Rene Cassin High School in the Ramat Eshkol neighborhood, and a No. 9 bus driving nearby was hit by the impact. The two buses went up in flames and burned. The rear end of the No. 26 bus was completely gutted. [passage omitted]

Security sources say that since the signing of the Taba agreement about a week and a half ago, vast amounts of information have been received about Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad plans to step up terrorist attacks in order to thwart the signing of the interim agreement. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem points out that several terrorist attacks took place in the Gaza Strip last week, in which a soldier and a border policeman were injured.

Death Toll Rises to Five

TA2108063795 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0630 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Five people were killed and approximately 100 wounded in the bus bombing in Jerusalem. One of the casualties is in very serious condition. [passage omitted]

Sixth Body Apparently Female 'Terrorist'

TA2108081295 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
0800 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The casualty toll in the Jerusalem bombing stands at five dead and approximately 90 wounded, six of them in serious condition. A sixth body apparently is that of a female suicide terrorist. [passage omitted]

A stormy demonstration against the government is under way at the site of the bombing, and there have been clashes between the demonstrators and border policeman. President 'Ezer Weizman arrived at the scene a short while ago and is trying to placate the crowd.

Rabin Orders Suspension of Taba Talks

TA2108070595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0700 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has ordered the suspension of the Taba talks with the Palestinians. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister is currently being briefed about the bus bombing in Jerusalem and is holding consultations with security officials.

Rabin: Attack Effort To Torpedo Talks

TA2108071795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0700 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says this morning's attack is another effort by radical Islam to torpedo the peace process. During his meeting with Labor Knesset Members Qahalani and Zismann, Rabin was constantly updated about the attack. Rabin said it is extremely difficult to deal with such suicide attacks.

Rabin Holds News Conference

TA2108145295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1353 GMT 21 Aug 95

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem; broadcast in progress — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli citizens, tourists, and others — innocent civilians who were riding a bus, by a male or a female suicide bomber, who sought to murder Israelis simply because they are Israelis. They deliberately operated in Jerusalem, the State of Israel's unified capital. They have issued a statement on al-Quds Radio in Damascus, claiming responsibility for the act aboard the No. 20 bus near 'Ilit Junction in Ramat Gan and stressing that from now until the elections they will wage a war against the government led by Labor, led by the person they call the terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin. They stress their pledge to continue their terrorist attacks, with the aim of thwarting the peace process. In their statement, they attack Palestinian Authority [PA] activities in Gaza and the foiling of a car bomb attack by the Palestinian Police in Gaza last Saturday.

We are in the midst of a tough war against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terrorist elements, against vile murderers, against the Islamic Jihad. Over two-thirds of all uniformed and civilian Israelis killed and murdered since 1 January 1994, were killed and murdered in suicide attacks by insane people, by religious fanatics incapable of anything but the murder of women, children, and men.

We will continue our activity, which has resulted in the foiling of suicide attacks in Gaza by the Palestinian Police, and in Judaea and Samaria — and not just recently. Nevertheless, in the present situation, in which there is a complete intermingling of Palestinians and Israelis, the acts of a deranged man ready to die, to commit suicide while harming Israelis, are hard to prevent completely.

A closure has been imposed on the Palestinian residents of Judaea and Samaria; they are banned from entering Israel. Steps instrumental in enforcing this closure — mainly, but not only visits to the Jerusalem District — are being taken. We will review the necessary steps in other districts as well. I truly hope the Israeli public, including those who oppose the government policy, will make it possible for the police and the security forces to focus on combating terror rather than divert troops from the war on terror to other problems. We are a democratic state, and everyone has a right to voice his view, to demonstrate in accordance with the law. But they must not divert the security forces — the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the police in the territories, the police inside Israel — from their job of protecting the residents of Israel and Israelis in the territories by actions which contribute nothing to the State of Israel's security.

This has been a tough and painful day. I am sending my condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and wishes of speedy recoveries to the wounded. This is a war on the enemies of Israel and the enemies of peace. This war is today waged jointly, to a degree, with the PA, because they are the PA's enemies, too. It is time to differentiate between the murderers among the Palestinians and those who wish to reach a political solution. We will cooperate with those who want a political solution, and when the funerals are over, the talks will be resumed. As for those who murder Israelis in a bid to murder peace, we will fight them with all our might, within the restrictions imposed by laws applicable to the State of Israel's security forces.

This has been a tough and painful day, but we are determined to fight the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad's terrorism and to pursue the building of peace with Palestinians who want to reach peace with us. Thank you.

Peres: Suspension Not To Affect Timetable

TA2108113595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1037 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Report by correspondent Mira Amsalem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Before meeting with the German minister for economic cooperation at Jerusalem's

Laromme Hotel, Foreign Minister Peres agreed to reply to some questions by news correspondents. Reacting to today's terrorist bombing, Peres asserted that two things must be done: First, everything necessary must be done to combat terrorism. The people who dispatched the terrorist today must be dealt with, and nothing should stop us from punishing them and preventing additional attacks. Second, the peace process must be pursued. If we opt for only one of these two dictums, Peres said, we will be blinding ourselves to the truth and to reality. Peace without an iron fist against terrorism will prevent us from achieving our goal, but fighting terrorism without concurrent efforts to reach peace will also miss our target. I know of no one, the foreign minister said, with a solution that does not involve a peace agreement. A great change can be seen in the Gaza Strip, he said. The Palestinians there have begun to understand that terrorism hurts them no less than it harms us. Terrorism undermines the Palestinian interest, and they understand this. They realize that if they do not fight terrorism, they will continue to be hurt. We must form a united front against terrorism and the terrorists, against these violent madmen.

Foreign Minister Peres was asked whether PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, after preventing one attack planned for last week, will be able to stop future terrorist attacks. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres replied that attacks also occurred when Israel controlled the Gaza Strip. Efforts must be made to unite the Palestinian capabilities to thwart terrorism. Here are some of Peres' remarks:

[Begin recording] [Peres] To my great regret, such things happened even when we had exclusive control. We must bring about a unification of all the Palestinian capabilities against terrorism. The situation is no longer one in which almost all of the Palestinians support terrorism. There has been a change today, and a large part of the Palestinian public, led by the Fatah movement, has decided to abandon the path of terrorism and to fight the terrorists. We hope that a majority of the Palestinians will join this struggle, not for our sake but for theirs.

[Unidentified correspondent] Should the negotiations timetable be changed following this attack?

[Peres] I do not think the timetable of the negotiations should be changed, although we will clearly have to suspend them at this time. This is a period of heavy national mourning. I am not trying to deny that this is a very difficult period; however, even at such a difficult time, we must think logically and use our common sense.

[Correspondent] Mr. Peres, do you intend to suspend the negotiations for a day or two following the attack?

[Peres] Perhaps. [end recording]

The foreign minister was asked whether the signing of the Oslo B agreement will have to be put off, and he replied that the talks will be resumed after a break of several days and that the timetable will not be affected.

As for the possibility of launching the talks on a permanent arrangement earlier than planned, Foreign Minister Peres said he does not believe in quack remedies. We must proceed gradually, the minister explained. Had we negotiated everything first instead of just Gaza first, there would have been no agreement. Progress must come step-by-step. The Israeli people, Peres added, are united behind our decisions on the Gaza Strip. The problems remain difficult and complex, he said, and the time is not yet ripe for a permanent agreement.

Foreign Minister Peres was asked about the Zo Artzenu movement, which plans to block intersections this afternoon. Peres said this did not constitute a case of civil disobedience. This is merely a small and marginal group, the foreign minister asserted, and we will continue the talks.

Shahal Interviewed on Bus Bombing

TA2108072995 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0635 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Razi Barqay; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Barqay] Let us discuss the political aspect of what happened in Jerusalem today. We are fed up; this is actually what all listeners are telling themselves. We are in the midst of a political process, we are talking with 'Arafat, but a large part of the Palestinian public actually does not accept this process, and we receive proof of it almost every other day.

[Shahal] Any answer I give you will sound banal, but the truth must be told during difficult moments as well. The conflict between us and our neighbors has gone on for 100 years and has taken various forms. A wave of terrorist attacks is currently afflicting our entire region, including Israel. There is Hizballah in south Lebanon, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad in our immediate vicinity. Any political argument to the effect that there is no room for peace between us and our neighbors will make all of them turn against us, instead of trying to neutralize a large part of the problem. Based on political views, some say: Let us leave this problem stagnant. But what then?

[Barqay] That is not what they are saying; they are saying that the negotiations should be suspended. I will

cite the example of a political colleague, President 'Ezer Weizman, who has said that under such circumstances, we should not stop the negotiations or say that we will not make peace with these people but rather reassess the situation.

[Shahal] I really appreciate President Weizman very much. I am definitely receptive to what he says, but unfortunately we must talk about the situation as it is. After all, the negotiations did not begin today. Menahem Begin's government wanted negotiations with the Palestinians, based on its awareness that it is impossible to continue to rule over 2.5 million Palestinians.

If one tells the truth, the naked truth, then those in favor of annexation are actually saying that the Palestinians will become part of us. They will not become lovers of Zion, however, and it is highly unlikely that the annexation these people seek will lead to the cessation of terrorist attacks.

[Barqay] I gather from what you say that after a day or two — unfortunately, a procedure has been established in such events whereby we suspend the talks until the funerals are over — the political process and Oslo B will get on the road.

[Shahal] I do not think the two issues should be mixed. Those who clamor that the negotiations should be suspended do not at all want a political solution, but they have no other solution either. What interests me is that later today we will discuss ways to raise the level of security. We will try to deal with these problems. I have no doubt that we have the best minds and forces to do that. [passage omitted]

Shahal Consults With Rabin, Comments

TA2108111295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1030 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Yo'el Nir and Channel 2's political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Nir] Sir, the consultation with the prime minister is over. What was decided?

[Shahal] We heard a briefing and held a general discussion about public transportation. Whatever was decided cannot be released to the media.

[Nir] Are there any additional details about the terrorist?

[Shahal] No. As long as we do not have a positive identification, we cannot say who it was. The matter is currently being checked by the police forensics department, and I suppose that very shortly we will know whether it was a male or a female terrorist. If

we identify the perpetrator, that will be very important. [passage omitted]

[Rosen] Sir, will the talks with the Palestinians continue, and if so, when?

[Shahal] At this stage, as was announced, the prime minister decided to suspend the talks. I do not know when they will resume.

[Rosen] Are you in favor of resuming the talks at once?

[Shahal] No, I think that we must first look into the event and determine who was responsible for it, where the explosives came from, and who did the planning and the actual bombing. Such an event does not involve only a single male or female terrorist loaded with explosives; they are backed by a support system. Once we ascertain the identity of the perpetrator, we will extrapolate with regard to the body responsible for the attack and react accordingly.

[Rosen] If we are indeed talking about a female suicide terrorist, does this introduce a new dimension to suicide attacks?

[Shahal] To date, women were not viewed as potential suicide bombers, and the way in which they were checked corresponded to this view. [sentence indistinct] This introduces a new dimension concerning the strictness of the checks of women crossing into Israel from Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria. [passage omitted]

[Rosen] Why suspend the talks? After all, you say that this is the terrorists' goal and that the negotiations should be wrapped up rapidly. So why suspend the talks with the Palestinians?

[Shahal] The question at stake is the level of determination of the Palestinian Authority to deal with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. We saw how the Palestinian Police dealt with the situation on Friday, and it was definitely satisfactory. The question is what they will do next, what measures they will take, and whether they will bring people to trial. This is a key and important factor to prevent similar events.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 21 August adds: "Minister Shahal said that the question of posting additional guards on buses was discussed in the consultation held in the prime minister's bureau and that it was decided to begin using dogs to sniff out bombs as of next week."]

Beilin: Talks To Continue

TA2108083195 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television
Network in Hebrew 0715 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Interview with Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin by moderator Ya'aqov Eylon in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Eylon] Minister Beilin, what is your reaction to the pictures of the site of the attack?

[Beilin] They are very unsettling. This is a very difficult morning in which we must both cry and wipe our tears while persevering and telling these madmen: You will not succeed. We will continue on our path, and you will not succeed.

[Eylon] They are successful, however.

[Beilin] No, they are not. What they really want, in addition to inflicting casualties, is to put an end to the political process. This is their real intention, but it will certainly fail. Occasionally, they succeed in inflicting fatalities on us, but we have managed to thwart many similar attacks over the past few months, thanks to the efforts of our security forces and the cooperation with the Palestinian Authority. It is to be hoped that we will be able to prevent such attacks on the whole in the future as well. Unfortunately, it is impossible to totally prevent them. I assume that once we complete the political process, however, such attacks will almost disappear.

[Eylon] The talks with the Palestinians were once again suspended this morning, but they are likely to be resumed shortly. There is talk of a large ceremony at the White House some time in September, perhaps around the middle of the month. Is such a peace ceremony conceivable while such incidents constantly recur in the streets of Israel's large cities?

[Beilin] We will not permit them to paralyze the grand move we are implementing. They will not succeed in turning the festivities into mourning. Naturally, it is extremely difficult — in fact, impossible — to conduct negotiations on such a day, and that is why the negotiations were not resumed this morning. I am convinced they will be resumed in the not too distant future, because we want to make progress. We want to prevent the insane killing which has been raging in our region for so many years. If and when the present move is completed, paving the way for the ceremony in Washington, I do not believe anybody in the Islamic Jihad will be able to prevent us from holding the signing ceremony.

Netanyahu Views 'Murderous' Attack

TA2108101895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0938 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu by Yoram Ronen; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ronen] We would like to hear your first reaction to this morning's bombing in Ramat Eshkol in Jerusalem.

[Netanyahu] First of all, on my behalf and that of my colleagues in the Likud, I would like to express shock at the murderous terrorist attack in Jerusalem. I would like to send my condolences to the families of the victims and my wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded. Despite the pain, sorrow, and outrage, I would also like to appeal to the public to proceed with restraint in their protests. This is not the time to delve into our disagreements with the government, definitely not on a day like today.

I heard various cabinet ministers say on the radio that the process with the Palestinians should be pursued. I think the government should understand that the negotiations with the PLO cannot continue as if nothing happened and that no distinction is possible between the perpetrators of terrorist attacks and the envoys of 'Arafat, who only recently once again called for jihad against Israel and praised suicide terrorists.

A female terrorist may have been responsible for today's bombing. Only recently — just a few weeks ago — we heard 'Arafat praise the female terrorist who perpetrated the attack on the coastal road years ago and say that everybody should follow her example. Somebody may have followed her example here.

I would like to make it clear that the Likud will support the government should it take the necessary measures to fight a resolute war against terror now and stop the process of retreat and capitulation to its perpetrators.

[Ronen] A consultation is currently under way in the prime minister's bureau. What decision do you expect to come out of it?

[Netanyahu] I very much hope the outcome does not coincide with the reports I have been hearing that the prime minister is planning some kind of perfunctory suspension of one or two days, a kind of routine suspension to which we have grown accustomed. I hope the prime minister will hear the loud cry from many Israelis to take a genuine and national interval in order to think long and hard about a new way to secure the country's future.

[Ronen] So, you do subscribe to President 'Ezer Weizman's view that a new reassessment of the situation is called for.

[Netanyahu] Undoubtedly.

[Ronen] Thank you very much, sir. (endall) 210938 sm/becher/TD 21/1018

Likud, Tzomet, Moledet React

TA2108083895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0800 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reacting to the Jerusalem bus bombing, 'Uzi Landau, chairman of the Likud bureau, said that the policy of the government, which, despite its intentions to the contrary, rushes to make hasty concessions in the wake of terrorist attacks, as it did after the bus bombing in Ramat Gan about a month ago, encourages the terrorist organizations to escalate their attacks in the heart of Israeli cities.

Tzomet's reaction: The prime minister must halt the negotiations until the Arabs get their own house in order. The prime minister must call new elections at once. These elections will lead to the establishment of a strong national government that will not grovel or give in to the dictates of the Arabs and their Meretz lackeys.

Moledet's reaction: The Israeli Government lifted the closure on the Gaza Strip yesterday, and Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] reaction came soon enough in the Ramat Eshkol bombing. The government must understand that this is the fate that awaits us if we withdraw from the cities in Judaea and Samaria.

Closure Imposed on West Bank

TA2108090995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0851 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Talk between moderator Me'ir Einstein and correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] The first decision made in the wake of the Jerusalem bus bombing is to impose a closure.

[Ben-Menahem] As of this morning, the security forces imposed a closure on Judaea and Samaria in the wake of the bombing. The closure will remain in effect until further notice, and laborers from the West Bank will not be allowed to enter Israel. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman also announced that laborers from the Gaza Strip are not allowed to enter Israel, but there has been no official announcement about a closure being imposed on the Gaza Strip.

[Einstein] Can we infer from this move that the female or male terrorist came from the West Bank?

[Ben-Menahem] It may be a preemptive measure, primarily to prevent friction between Jews and Arabs and avert retaliation by Jews, and perhaps for the purpose of the investigation. The situation is not clear yet; therefore, it is premature to draw any conclusions about the identity of the terrorist.

Jordanian Ambassador Comments on Bombing

JN2108081195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic
0655 GMT 21 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, Jordanian ambassador to Israel, by unidentified correspondent in Shefar'am on 21 August — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to Israel, good morning.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Good morning.

[Correspondent] We would like you to comment on the incident which took place this morning — an explosion in a bus, which injured 103 and killed six.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] In fact, this is a criminal act and we strongly condemn it. There is no room for such incidents at this time. We are holding negotiations to achieve a political settlement that serves the entire region. There is no room any longer for such inhuman incidents, which actually reduce our sense of humanity and do not whatsoever serve the Arab future.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, do you think that there must be regional cooperation on security in order to put an end to activities by these extremist elements.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] I believe that we can redouble efforts to achieve a political settlement so that we would not provide any justification for such acts in addition to cooperation to stop or at least reduce these acts. All quarters must condemn these acts without any reservations because these acts are inhuman and do not serve the peace process whatsoever.

[Correspondent] In light of progress in the talks in Elat, what do you think is the lesson that the Palestinian and Israeli sides should learn from this incident.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] I believe that the Palestinian and Israeli sides are committed to achieving a political settlement and agreement. Such acts will not stop the negotiations. These acts are only shedding more blood that does not serve anyone.

King on Support for Iraq, Contacts With U.S.

JN1908205395 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening presided over part of the cabinet session, which was attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir. His majesty the king has expressed satisfaction with the government's efforts in all walks of life. He underlined the importance of promoting democracy on the basis of tolerance, cooperation, and dialogue.

His Majesty King Husayn also expressed his admiration of the positive spirit permeating the relationship between the legislative and executive branches of government, which is promoting the interests of both the homeland and citizens.

His majesty the king was reassured about the government's preparations for convening and rendering a success the economic conference for the Middle East and North Africa due to be held in Amman. The preparations are aimed at creating the appropriate circumstances for this great meeting in order to attract national, Arab, and foreign investments and epitomize the homeland's cultural accomplishments.

In the course of the discussions on recent domestic and Arab developments, His Majesty King Husayn reiterated that Jordan will constantly support its nation and uphold its causes. He said: We support the fraternal Iraqi people's efforts to rid themselves of the ordeal of the siege so that they may enjoy their resources and freedom and return to play their roles on the Arab and international scenes. His majesty the king went on to say: Iraq is our depth, and we are its lifeline. Our ties with it are historical, fraternal, and genuine. It supported us and we supported it in all tough circumstances. Our ties with it are complementary. They are influenced by Iraq's state of affairs, and the opposite is also true. We will continue to support it. We will keep our outlet open for it. Our efforts to end its suffering will continue.

His Majesty King Husayn said that Jordan will remain a sanctuary for the sons of this nation, where they can seek refuge and lead dignified and noble lives.

His majesty the king hoped that inter-Arab ties will continue to move in the right direction in order to create a new state of cooperation and coordination that helps the nation face the challenges posed to it. He asserted his support for the Palestinian brothers in their persistent endeavors to restore their legitimate rights. Moreover, he expressed his satisfaction with the positive developments seen in the ties with the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He underlined our humanitarian assistance to the fraternal Bosnian people,

saying that this assistance will continue. His majesty the king commended the distinguished role being played by the Jordanian forces are taking part in the peacekeeping mission there.

His majesty the king instructed that assistance, particularly medical aid, be extended to the Chechen people.

His Majesty King Husayn was briefed by several cabinet members on various development, economic, administrative, and tourist issues, particularly plans for the development of the city of al-'Aqabah and the Red Sea coast.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir had earlier welcomed, in his own name and on behalf of the cabinet members, His Majesty King Husayn, expressing his great appreciation of his grand directives. He also reviewed several legislations which the government seeks to enact, and asserted the government's eagerness to continue its efforts to promote the interests of the homeland and citizens.

At the conclusion of the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn spoke to reporters:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Your Majesty, you have chaired a cabinet meeting. What are the issues that have been discussed and which are of interest to the homeland on the domestic front and abroad?

[Husayn] I think we have discussed all issues of interest to the homeland on the domestic front and abroad. Brother Abu-Rasha [Information Minister Khalid al-Karaki] will give you full details about what took place.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, your smile always inspires optimism in our hearts. Is the situation in the Arab homeland really reassuring? Is there really an imminent relaxation?

[Husayn] Regarding the relaxation, I believe that this is indeed the case. I am confident that things are proceeding in the right direction regarding the return of Arab relations to what they should be in the future. There are many encouraging signs in this direction. But to say that everything in the Arab homeland is satisfactory and reassuring, this is not true. Naturally, many things worry and pain us. In this context in particular, we have the suffering of the Iraqi people. We have a clear and unambiguous stand toward this issue. We support this people to enable them to get rid of the situation they are in and restore their right to life, since Iraq is an important state in the region, and is a backup for us and our depth. The Iraqi people are our brothers. Everything that affects the Iraqi people affects us.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, after you were briefed on the outcome of the foreign minister's visit to Saudi

Arabia, how do you view the Jordanian-Saudi future relationship?

[Husayn] The relationship is on its way back to its normal situation. It has returned, praise be to God, to the way it should have always been.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, when will you meet with the custodian of the two holy mosques?

[Husayn] Soon, God willing.

[Correspondent] There have been reports that the U.S. Government has asked Jordan to reduce its economic ties with Iraq.

[Husayn] The U.S. Government has not asked Jordan to do anything. The U.S. Government and President are in contact with me personally. They have expressed their admiration of Jordan and its stance, courage, and role in this region. They have told us that they support us if we need anything. But they have not asked us to take any measure. We act only in the interest of our nation and Arab individual in the greater homeland. [end recording]

Government Stresses 'No Changes' in Iraq Policy

JN2008081895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
20 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] In its statement Saturday [19 August], the government attempted anew to assure Jordanians that it is under no pressure to turn the tables against Iraq and that the Kingdom's policies are dictated by its interests.

"While media reports emanating from the U.S. capital have spoken of pressure being exerted on Jordan to cut its economic and trade ties with Iraq, the government would like to affirm that no such pressure has been exerted," said the government statement. On Friday the government made no comments on the reports about Mr. Pelletreau's mission. It only said that the meeting with the American official dealt with the Middle East economic summit which Amman will host in October.

Also seeking to assert the sovereignty of its decisions, the government said in the statement that no changes had been made to its policies on Iraq.

"Jordan's policy vis-a-vis the situation in Iraq has always been and remains consistent in line with the overall objective of preserving Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and bringing about a speedy end to the terrible suffering of the Iraqi people," said the statement.

The government indicated in the statement that its own interests will argue against a decision to sever economic

ties with Baghdad. Jordan receives the bulk of its oil supplies from Iraq, with half of the amount at discounted prices and the rest in repayment of debts owed to the Kingdom by Baghdad.

Iraq is also a major trading partner for Jordan despite the economic sanctions. Trading in commodities allowed under the embargo constitutes a significant part of the Kingdom's foreign trade.

"Jordan will not do anything to jeopardise its own strategic, trade and economic interests" in Iraq, said the statement.

"(N)or (Jordan) add to the suffering of the Iraqi people," said the statement in a clear rejection of suggestions that the Kingdom, Iraq's only outlet to the outside world, would close its borders with Baghdad under U.S. pressure that aims at tightening the noose round Iraq. [passage omitted]

'Senior' Source on Pelletreau Visit, Iraq Policy

JN1908103095 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
19 Aug 95 pp 1, 20

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Two U.S. officials have held talks with Jordanian officials which focused on the Middle East issue, the peace process, Iraq, and the coming Amman economic summit. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, a senior Jordanian source said that Jordan is still committed to its historical national and pan-Arab positions on the Iraqi people and to the statement made by His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir during his recent meeting with the members of the House of Representatives regarding the Jordanian position on Iraq.

The source noted that Jordan is also committed to the outcome of the prime minister's meeting with Pelletreau, which was attended by Jordanian and U.S. officials. He said: No one is putting pressures on us. Jordan deals with such issues with clarity and frankness, and it has nothing to conceal.

The source pointed out that the prime minister frankly and clearly defined the principles of the consistent Jordanian policy which cannot be changed by events and developments whatsoever. He said: We in this country are very clear, our policies toward Iraq have not changed, and our endeavor to end the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people and lift the sanctions imposed on them will remain the slogan of the serious Jordanian move on all levels. He also explained that the defection of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his

companions to Jordan was a mere individual event and that Jordan has nothing to do with it. This defection should be viewed as a sheer humanitarian request for asylum which has no political implications.

The source added: The prime minister emphasized that Jordan is committed to its position on Iraq's unity and sovereignty and on the Iraqi people's right to a decent life, to new opportunities for construction, and to choosing a way to build their political future. Such an event has no political implications regarding the Jordanian-Iraqi relationship and the fraternity between the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples. Therefore, Jordan continues to be interested in maintaining its policy toward Iraq. This policy is based on the need to lift the blockade, end the suffering of the Iraqi people, keep the borders open as usual, and not allow any activities on Jordanian territory stemming from the principle of noninterference in others' affairs.

The Jordanian source added: Jordan has suffered much from others' interference in its internal affairs for long years and through many events, which is no secret to our people and nation. Jordan, however, refuses to be a party to any issue or a crossing for any party seeking to interfere in the affairs of Iraq or any other Arab country. This is so because we believe that peoples only have the right to determine their own path and the way by which they build their political future.

The source explained that Jordan's efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere stem from Jordanian constants which seek to reunify the Arabs without excepting any Arab party. Jordan will not bargain over the rights of the Arab nation and its causes under all circumstances, he added.

Replying to a question by AL-DUSTUR on statements attributed to Jordanian officials regarding Jordanian-Iraqi relations, Engineer 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, first deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, said such reports are rumors leaked by the foreign press and they are not an official position. No Jordanian official has talked about such positions which conflict with the constants of the clear Jordanian policy, he said.

Eng. al-Majali, who is also secretary general of the al-'Ahd [Pledge] Party, added that Jordan is independent and sovereign, that Jordan knows its own interest, that it is the master of itself, and that no one from outside can dictate positions on Jordan. He asserted that we should not yield to such pressures even if they are actually put.

He also asserted that Jordan determines its real interests and destiny by itself and that it does not accept outside pressures regardless of their source. He reaffirmed that the current situation on the ground is still unchanged

and that he does not see anything calling for such an unacceptable change. [passage omitted]

On Thursday [17 August], Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti said Jordan is not considering cutting its economic relations with Iraq. He pointed out that he "sees no reason" for doing so. He said: I have much doubt that we need to discuss our policy toward our neighbors with any party whatsoever.

Pelletreau and Mark Parris, the U.S. President's special assistant, left Amman yesterday after discussing what they called "the crucial turning point" regarding Iraq.

U.S. 'Promises' Not To Abandon Jordan Doubted

JN1908120795 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
19 Aug p 29

[News analysis by Dr. Fahd al-Fanik: "What Does the U.S. Delegation Want From Jordan? Serious Jordanian Sacrifices In Return For Promises!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The entire world, except the United States and Britain, are moving toward canceling the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq, which are no longer justified, whose objectives have been exhausted, and which have turned into a process of mass killing of children, elderly people, women, and the sick. At this particular time, the U.S. Government sent a delegation to Amman in order to convince the Jordanian Government to cut all its economic ties with Iraq to tighten the grip on the fraternal people of Iraq.

It would have been easy if the U.S. delegation carried some real commitments. Instead, all that the delegation carried to Jordan does not exceed obscure and noncommittal promises such as that they will help Jordan to improve its relations with the Gulf states, that they will convince Saudi Arabia to provide us with oil, as well as other general promises.

It is useful for the visiting U.S. delegation to understand that Jordan is against the principle of continuing the embargo and that the people of Jordan feel insulted for having to be a part of this embargo and, thus, demand the international community to put an end to this inhumane operation. This is in addition to the fact that Jordan has vital interests in Iraq that can be counted in dollars and cents, which is the language understood by the delegation. Therefore, how can these interests be compensated through the improvement of relations with some Gulf states.

Jordan's interests include obtaining \$500 million worth of oil per year, part of which is free and the other part is in return for Jordan exports such as medicine and food. This is especially since the closure of the Iraqi market

cancels 7 percent of Jordan's gross national product and constitutes a painful economic setback.

To be added to this is that Iraq has an account receivable in the budget of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] totalling \$1.1 billion, including Iraq's \$600 million debt before the imposition of sanctions. The remainder constitutes part of the allowed deduction from oil prices which are financed by the CBJ in favor of the Jordanian treasury which receives 150 million dinars, equivalent to \$215 million annually as an Arab aid, which, in fact, constitutes the difference in oil prices.

Can the U.S. delegation secure to Jordan 75,000 barrels of oil per day until further notice without cash money? Can it secure markets for our exports instead of the Iraqi market? Can it guarantee paying back \$1.1 billion in debt which will become a bad debt? Can it secure to the treasury \$215 million annually as cash revenues? Can it provide it with sufficient work to operate the Port of al-'Aqabah and the trucks fleet?

Most probably the U.S. delegation will say: "Sever your economic ties with Iraq, and trust us because we will not abandon you." We have heard this before, but it remained words, just as the fruits and profits of peace which we heard from the United States, but which we have not yet seen.

By the way, we would like to ask the U.S. delegation about the reasons behind the failure to compensate Jordan for its losses resulting from the implementation of the international sanctions, as stipulated by Article 50 of Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, as long as the United States is the executive authority of the (international) sanctions.

Finally, the U.S. delegation should explain to the Jordanian people why the United States has been paying \$3 billion a year to Israel and \$2 billion to Egypt since the signing of the Egyptian- Israeli peace treaty 15 years ago, while it gives Jordan only \$7.2 million?

If President Clinton's promises at the Jordanian Parliament were not fulfilled, then why should we deal with and believe new promises on a much lower political level?

U.S. Criticized for Proposing Jordan Sever Iraq Ties

JN2008084495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
20 Aug 95 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "America Does Not Understand the Arab Mentality"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that the Americans, who possess the best data and research centers, are

unaware of the true fabric of relations linking the capitals and peoples of the Arab region. They are unaware of the axiomatic fact that despite all past and present difficulties and challenges, these relations continue to maintain their essence, which is based on pan-Arab fraternity derived from the tolerant teachings of Islam.

Perhaps the most recent manifestation of the U.S. failure to understand the Arab mentality lies in Washington's proposal to Jordan to sever relations with Iraq in return for a series of cost-free promises, such as the promise to secure oil supplies, the promise to improve Jordanian-Gulf relations, and other promises which deceive no one, not even the naive.

Furthermore, even if the U.S. promises went beyond mere empty words and rose to the level of written commitments, we, first of all, have no confidence in the incumbent U.S. Administration's ability to fulfill its obligations and promises. Second, we do not believe that our principled position is subject to bargaining, regardless of the current political situation of Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

The United States has to understand the fact that Jordan is not prepared to exchange its relations with one sisterly Arab state for relations with another, and that it will not accept waiving its national pride or any of the nation's rights, including its right to choose its own policies and stands in line with its interests in both the foreseeable and distant future.

In light of all this, we find ourselves closer to surprise and astonishment than to resentment and suspicion as we hear these U.S. proposals that indicate a lack of experience in the affairs and worries of this part of the world, not to say that these proposals confirm the fact that the United States, being the only superpower, is not aware of the elements that constitute the closely-knit fabric of relations between the countries and peoples of the Arab region, in addition to the fact that it does not understand the Arab mentality.

Paper: U.S. Did Not Ask Jordan To Cut Ties

JN2008110595 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
20 Aug 95 pp 1, 16

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman/Baghdad — Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir is expected to hold a closed meeting with the speaker and members of the Senate at the portraits room tomorrow, Monday [21 August]. The prime minister will put the Senate in the picture of recent developments and Jordan's position toward them.

In another development, a responsible source said that during his meeting with the prime minister the day before yesterday, Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, did not present a request from the U.S. Administration, asking Jordan to cut off its economic ties with Iraq in return for securing oil from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The source added that Jordan refuses to return its relations with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Gulf states to normal at the expense of the Iraqi people.

The source said that the meeting discussed coordination vis-a-vis the Amman economic summit as well as the issue of establishing a Middle East and North Africa development bank. The prime minister said that Jordan is seeking to make the proposed regional bank a means for development in the region with acceptable and logical conditions and not to make it a commercial bank that is added to the rest of the commercial banks.

The source stressed Jordan's commitment to its national and pan-Arab stands toward the Iraqi people. It added that Jordan draws its own policy in accordance with its constants without allowing anyone to dictate any conditions on it and that it is the one which defines its policy with its neighbors, underlining the constant efforts to lift the embargo on the Iraqi people.

In Baghdad, President Saddam Husayn chaired an Iraqi cabinet session during which brotherly relations between Jordan and Iraq in light of recent developments were reviewed.

Following the session, an official spokesman said that relations between the two countries are deeply rooted, noting that in addition to the pan-Arab meanings of these relations, joint cooperation to serve brotherly interests has crystallized from them.

UN's Ekeus Reportedly To Meet With Iraqi Defector

JN2008070395 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
20 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman—The head of the United Nations Special Commission for the Disarmament of Iraq (UNSCOM), Rolf Ekeus, arrives here on Monday [21 August] to meet with Iraqi former Minister of Industry Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, who defected to Jordan on Aug. 8, a government source said Saturday.

The source told THE JORDAN TIMES the U.N. envoy will also meet with Jordanian officials but stopped short of elaborating on the nature of the talks Mr. Ekeus will hold with them. [passage omitted]

Husayn Kamil Reportedly Denied Second News Conference

JN2108142995 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
21 Aug 95 p 1

[From the "Very Exclusive News Reports" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Husayn Kamil has asked to hold a second news conference to reply to Tariq 'Aziz's statements, but his request was this time denied. Husayn Kamil's first news conference was scheduled to take place at a security center, but it was decided at the last minute to hold it at the Royal Court, canceling the information minister's arrangements.

Defector's Bodyguards Return to Iraq; Others Stay

NC1908173695 Paris AFP in English
1656 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 19 (AFP) - A group of 15 bodyguards who travelled to Amman with members of President Saddam Husayn's family when they defected to Jordan have returned to Iraq, a Jordanian official said Saturday [19 August].

The same official identified for the first time six members of the entourage who defected with former industry minister Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother and their wives, both daughters of the president, on August 8.

The six, who have remained in Jordan, were named as: Jasim Muhammad Hasan — Husayn Kamil's cousin — Bulus Matta Mansur, Asad Sa'id Jasim, Talib 'Umar Muhammad, Jasim Kurayim and 'Abd-al-Hasan- 'Abd-al-Husayn.

Jordanian officials, who said initially that a group of 30 people defected on August 8, said only 15 now remained in Jordan after the bodyguards returned voluntarily to Baghdad.

An official said that two people named by Iraq as "traitors" were not among the group who took refuge in Amman. They were Hakim Kamil Hasan, one of Husayn Kamil's brothers, and his cousin Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan.

Jordan announced on August 10 that it had granted asylum to Husayn Kamil, his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamil Hasan, and their wives, Raghad and Rana, both daughters of Saddam Husayn.

The only other people it identified in the group were the couples' children and a cousin, 'Izz-al-Din Muhammad Hasan.

Saddam's Daughters To Return Home 'at Any Moment'

JN1808170195 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU'
in Arabic 17 Aug 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Translated Text] AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that the Jordanian Government rejected a request by Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan to conduct his political activities against Iraq from Amman.

Official sources said the government told the Iraqi lieutenant general that it welcomes him as an Arab citizen and not an Arab politician, and that the government bans political refugees from conducting any political activities, and that his appearance on Jordanian Television was to answer charges made against him, although he did not answer these charges. The Jordanian Government did not expect that he would openly attack the Iraqi leadership from Amman, which conflicted with Jordanian policy and its Arab commitments since Jordan has never been used by anyone as a ground for attacking another country in such an open manner. His comments urging the Iraqi Army and people to revolt conflict with Jordanian policy because Jordan advocates democracy and human rights.

The concerned authorities provided the Iraqi political refugees strong protection and prevented them from contacting any side after they knew that contacts were held with Iraqi quarters outside Jordan over the telephone and with Iraqi personalities in Amman. The concerned authorities also made all necessary measures to ensure that Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil will not leak any military secrets to the delegations with which he meets. The authorities have officially asked him to abide by this and said they have the ability to know how committed he is to his promise not to leak secrets about Iraq. There is particular concern since he said at the news conference that he may reveal some secrets if he finds that this will serve the higher interests.

Government officials are contacting Arab and Western officials to discuss the possibility of hosting Lt. Gen. Husayn Kamil because his presence in Amman threatens Jordanian-Iraqi relations especially since Jordan expects trade exchanges with Iraq of more than \$1 billion this year compared with the exchanges last year which amounted to \$1/2 billion. Furthermore, there are about 30,000 official Iraqi refugees in Amman and 70,000 others who reside unofficially and nonpermanently in Amman and who spend millions of dollars in Amman. Some of them have investments worth \$100 million. This shows the size of the loss Jordan will face if its relations with Iraq deteriorate.

It can be confirmed that Husayn Kamil is seeking refuge in a location where he can conduct his activities because Amman is not a place for this. There are reports that the two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will return to Baghdad at any moment and will leave their husbands to continue their political adventures. It was also learned that the Jordanian Government does not object to the return of Saddam Husayn's daughters if they officially request this.

It was learned that the two daughters expressed desire to return to Iraq but under Hashemite protection, and that they were not aware that their two husbands would stay in Amman; they came as visitors. The two sides [as published] will overlook what happened and will view it as something casual. Iraq will introduce a series of political, economic, and democratic changes under the leadership of President Saddam to rescue Iraq from its current situation, especially following reports which say that the siege will be lifted before the end of this year.

King Reportedly Meets Saddam's Daughters Twice

JN2108145495 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
21 Aug 95 p 1

[From the "Very Exclusive News Reports" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been reported that his majesty the king has said, when he chaired the cabinet session on Saturday [19 August], that he personally felt that President Saddam's daughters are unwilling to return to Iraq. It has also been reported that his majesty informed the prime minister and ministers that he met Raghad and Rana [Saddam's daughters] twice following their arrival in Amman and was reassured that they are willing to live with their husbands of their own accord and without any pressure or coercion.

Saddam's Wife Not To Visit Without 'Official' Invitation

JN2108145195 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
21 Aug 95 p 1

[From the "Very Exclusive News Reports" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mrs. Sajidah Khayrallah, the Iraqi president's wife, will not visit Jordan to see her two daughters if she does not receive an official Jordanian invitation. She said that motherhood will not make her forget that she is the wife of the leader of the largest Arab country after Egypt. However, when she longs to see her daughters and to see if there is anything new about them she calls the wife of the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Officials Deny Report on Trip by Saddam Sister

NC2008110595 Paris AFP in English
1042 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Aug 20 (AFP)—Jordanian officials on Sunday [20 August] denied a report that a sister of Saddam Husayn is in Amman trying to convince two of the president's daughters who defected to Jordan to return to Baghdad.

The London-based Arabic newspaper AL-HAYAH said the sister was in Amman with Manal al-'Allussi, president of the General Union of Iraqi Women, trying to persuade Saddam's daughters, Raghad and Rana, to return.

The paper, which did not name the sister, said: "The two women have not managed so far to meet the two daughters."

The union, which is controlled by the Iraqi government, has claimed Raghad and Rana were drugged and abducted by their husbands, former industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil Hasan.

The two sisters, who defected on August 8, refused to see the Iraqi ambassador in Jordan, Nuri al-Wayyis and their elder brother 'Udayy when the two men went to Amman on August 10, the day Jordan granted the defectors asylum.

Well-placed sources in Amman told AFP that no members of the family had travelled to Amman attempting to see the sisters since then. They have previously denied rumours that Saddam's wife was in the Jordanian capital on a similar mission.

Saddam's Relatives Reportedly Fail To See Daughters

JN2108145995 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
21 Aug 95 p 1

[From the "Very Exclusive News Reports" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the failure of 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid to see Sad-

dam's daughters, 'Abd Hasan al-Majid [Intelligence Service assistant director] and his sister Umm-Lu'ayy al-Talfah, stepmother of their mother who is very close to Saddam's daughters, made an unannounced visit to Jordan in an attempt to see the two sisters. However, this attempt also failed.

Paper Says al-Kabariti in Hospital Due to Illness

JN2108094895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
21 Aug 95 pp 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-ASWAQ has learned that a visit to Jordan by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa scheduled for today was postponed until next Saturday [26 August]. This comes after Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti was admitted to a hospital in Amman after he became ill upon his return from his recent visit to Saudi Arabia.

Medical sources at the hospital have confirmed that the foreign minister's condition is good and that he is expected to be discharged from the hospital today.

The Egyptian foreign minister yesterday announced that he postponed his visit to Jordan because al-Kabariti is ill.

Musa told reporters that his visit, scheduled to begin today, will be postponed for a few days until Jordan's foreign minister fully recovers.

Foreign Ministry sources noted that al-Kabariti will meet with four counterparts in Amman within the next few days. These are foreign ministers of Egypt, Tunis, Morocco, and Bosnia.

Al-Kabariti is expected to meet with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad in Cairo or Riyadh within three weeks.

He will visit Gaza earlier next month to open the headquarters of the Jordanian mission there. During the visit, al-Kabariti will meet with Palestinian National Authority President Yasir 'Arafat.

Jerusalem Blast, 'Arafat's Reaction Reported

JN2108091095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 21 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In occupied Palestine, Israeli radio said five Israelis have thus far been killed and 103 others wounded in the Israeli bus explosion which took place in Ramat Eshkol in occupied Jerusalem this morning. The radio noted that more could have been killed. The Israeli radio said that a person, who was carrying a bomb, blew himself up inside the bus and that an anonymous person called the radio a short while ago and announced that the 'Izz-al-Din Qassam Battalions, affiliated with the Hamas Movement, carried out this operation on the anniversary of the burning of al-Aqsa Mosque. The radio added that Israeli security organs had received information on the intention of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad to carry out operations against Israeli targets. The radio said that Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, and Jerusalem District Police Commander Major General Arye 'Amit arrived at the explosion site.

Israeli Police said the explosion took place at the rear of the bus and that remnants of bodies were scattered near the bus. It was also reported that another bus, which was behind the bus in which the explosion took place, was also damaged.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today ordered the suspension of the ongoing talks with the limited Palestinian self-rule authorities on expanding the self-rule in the West Bank in the wake of the explosion.

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the limited Palestinian self-rule, condemned this operation. In a statement to journalists in Gaza, 'Arafat said: I fully condemn the incident. We do not accept such activities. Yasir 'Arafat's adviser Marwan Kanafani also denounced this operation. Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the self-rule authority, condemned this operation which he described as the most serious operation.

Recent 'Terrorist Operations' in Paris Condemned

JN2008124395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: At a time when the French foreign policy, after President Jacques Chirac assumed office, began to follow certain directions and

to define its nature, Paris witnessed the second explosion in three weeks.

Based on a quick review of this terrorist atmosphere the French capital is facing, it has become clear beyond any doubt that the main target of these terrorist operations is not only the subway, the Arc de Triomphe, or the safe French citizens, but the target is basically the French role, which is expected from France whether in France or abroad, with the aim of paralyzing and obstructing this role and keeping the French administration busy and away from realizing the broad objectives listed in President Jacques Chirac's program before entering the Elysee Palace, and then cutting this big program to size and limiting it to just providing security and stability to the French before contributing to world security and stability.

No one can ignore the French role and its effectiveness, whether in terms of France's position or importance, and in terms of its active role in the international community, especially in the European Community, in which France is considered an important part of its political, economic, and cultural structure. Hence, the coincidence between the terrorist operations in Paris and the expanding and growing French role during President Chirac's rule seems to be suspicious. The world respects and appreciates the French role under his leadership and attaches a great importance on this role in eliminating conflicts and disputes and realizing international security and stability.

Undoubtedly, the responsibility for confronting the phenomenon of terrorism is a collective one and is shouldered by all. This responsibility requires efforts by all in order to confront these actions, whatever they might be.

We are all confident that what Paris faced will strengthen the adherence of President Chirac's administration to the objectives it has announced and its determination to implement them.

While the wounds of the French targeted by the condemned terrorism have not yet dried, we condemn and denounce terrorism regardless of its source, method, or objectives, including the mixing of cards and concepts and the creation of a state of confusion of what the French position may stand for if France succeeds in carrying out the tasks it is shouldering, whether in the Mediterranean basin or the international arena.

India**Reportage Continues on Tourists' Kidnapping****Intelligence Agents Said Involved**

*BK1808131195 Hong Kong AFP in English
1200 GMT 18 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 18 (AFP) — An umbrella organization of Kashmiri Muslim separatist groups alleged Friday [18 August] that Indian intelligence agents were behind the kidnapping and brutal murder of a Norwegian tourist in Kashmir.

Umar Farooq, chairman of the All-Party Kashmir Freedom Conference known as the Huriyat, called on the UN Security Council to conduct an enquiry into the abduction and beheading of Hans-Christian Ostro.

The body of the 27-year-old Norwegian was found Sunday in a remote village near where Ostro and four other Western tourists were kidnapped last month.

A shadowy Muslim separatist group, Al-Faran, has claimed responsibility for Ostro's murder and threatened to kill the four other hostages if the Indian authorities do not release 15 Muslim militants from prison.

Indian officials have said that the previously unknown Al-Faran is actually the hardline Muslim separatist group Harkat-ul-Ansar, which kidnapped two Britons in Kashmir last year and freed them unharmed after 17 days.

Harkat-ul-Ansar, however, has denounced the latest kidnappings and alleged they were carried out by Afghan guerrillas under the control of the Indian government.

Huriyat chairman Farooq, in a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali released here Friday, voiced similar allegations.

"Hostage-taking and beheading of innocent people not only affronts our society but is totally unacceptable to our social ethos," he said.

"The killing of Hans-Christian Ostro by some unknown people on our soil sent shockwaves from one corner of Kashmir to another," Farooq said.

The chairman of the Huriyat, which brings together 30 political and militant groups opposed to Indian rule over Kashmir, said: "Who the people are who have killed this innocent person is shrouded in deep mystery."

"Al-Faran, the group that claims to have abducted and slain Mr. Ostro, is totally alien to our ongoing movement for self-determination."

"We in the Huriyat Conference suspect (Ostro's murder) to be the handiwork of Indian security forces and

Indian intelligence agencies with the sinister motive of maligning the Kashmir freedom struggle," he said.

Farooq called on the United Nations to appoint an impartial international commission to "enquire as to who is behind the so-called Al-Faran and the abduction and killing of the Norwegian national."

The Huriyat called a general strike in the Kashmir Valley on Wednesday to protest against Ostro's murder and has repeatedly called on the kidnappers to release their hostages.

Al-Faran, in its only statement since Ostro's murder, urged Kashmiris not to strike and claimed to be a group of "Kashmiri Muslims, not foreign agents."

Al-Faran Warns Against Rescue Attempt

*BK1808131895 Hong Kong AFP in English
1310 GMT 18 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, Aug 18 (AFP)—A Muslim separatist group holding four Western tourists in Kashmir warned Friday that the hostages would be killed if the Indian authorities attempted a rescue operation.

"Once a military offensive begins the hostages will be killed," Al-Faran said in a statement released to news agencies in this Kashmir summer capital.

The group said the Indian government's refusal to accept Al-Faran's demand for the release of 15 Muslim militants from prison had already led to the death of Norwegian hostage Hans-Christian Ostro.

"If the government wants to see the other four hostages alive it should immediately release the 15 militants on our list," the statement said.

"There is no other way to secure the release of these foreigners," added Al-Faran, which kidnapped Ostro, two Britons, an American and a German early last month.

Further on al-Faran Warning

*BK1808144295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1412 GMT 18 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] SRINAGAR, India, Aug 18 (AFP)—A shadowy Muslim separatist group holding four Western tourists in Kashmir threatened to kill the hostages on Friday if Indian commandos attempted a rescue operation.

"Once a military offensive begins the hostages will be killed," Al-Faran said following reports that British and US anti-terrorism experts had arrived in this Kashmir summer capital to assist the Indian authorities.

Al-Faran, in an Urdu-language statement distributed here, said the Indian government's refusal to release 15 Muslim militants from prison had already led to the death of Norwegian hostage Hans-Christian Ostro.

"If the government wants to see the other four hostages alive it should immediately release the 15 militants on our list," said the captors of Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert.

Al-Faran recalled that the government had released jailed guerrillas in exchange for Indian hostages in the past, and asked why it would not do so now.

"Why is (the government) not willing to release a few Kashmiri militants in exchange for the Western tourists?" Al-Faran said.

"The government is adamant in getting the other four killed so that on the international level it can present the Kashmir problem in the wrong way," the group added.

It said freeing the 15 imprisoned militants was the only way to end the hostage crisis and a rescue operation would only end in bloodshed.

"There is no other way to secure the release of these foreigners and once a military offensive begins the hostages will be killed," it said. "Internal or international condemnation will not make us back down from our demands."

The Al-Faran statement followed reports of the arrival in Srinagar of US and British anti-terrorism experts to help secure the release of four hostages.

Sources close to the authorities said the five Britons and three Americans had arrived in Kashmir to assist the Indian government. They said the commander of India's elite Black Cat commando force was also in Srinagar.

A Kashmir government spokesman declined to comment on reports that Indian anti-terrorist squads had been flown to Kashmir.

But he said "some of the Western countries involved feel that they have experts well-versed in hostage situations who could make an assessment.

"They have been sent to India and they will now make their own assessment and report back to their countries," he said.

He dismissed as "totally speculative" reports that a rescue operation was planned but said "we have not ruled out anything."

The Indian authorities have cautioned that a rescue raid would be extremely risky in the inhospitable Himalayan

terrain where the hostages are believed to be held by heavily armed guerrillas.

Pressure has been mounting on the Indian authorities to take action, however, following the beheading of the Norwegian Ostro over the weekend. [passage omitted on previously filed material]

Authorities Say 'No Breakthrough'

BK1808155795 *Delhi All India Radio Network*
in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government authorities are in contact with the abductors of the four foreign tourists, but there is no breakthrough.

Some diplomats from the United States, Britain, and Germany, now in Srinagar, met some leaders of the Hurriyat Conference — an umbrella organization of several militant and political groups. An official spokesman said in Srinagar this evening that a team of senior government officers is keeping a constant watch over the situation. Foreign diplomats are being kept informed of the day-to-day developments.

Meanwhile, the people of Panznulla village, from where the dead body of the Norwegian tourist, Hans-Christian Ostro, was recovered, have expressed deep shock, anguish, and condemnation over the barbaric killing by the militants.

Rao: 'All Possible Efforts' Being Made

BK1908082195 *Delhi All India Radio Network*
in English 0245 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has reaffirmed that all possible efforts will be made to secure the safe release of four Western tourists held captive by militants in Kashmir. Talking to reporters at Raipur Airport on his way back to Delhi, Mr. Narasimha Rao expressed serious concern over the killing of a Norwegian tourist. He said follow up action would soon yield results.

Meanwhile, efforts continue to secure the safe release of four foreign tourists. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent this morning that the authorities are in contact with the kidnappers and are making all efforts to persuade them to free the tourists unharmed. He said reports about the launching of an operation by the security forces to trace the hostages are baseless. The spokesman repeated the government's appeal to Al-Faran and said that they should release the tourists unharmed respecting world opinion.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, said Pakistan has always tried to jeopardize

the center's efforts to hold elections in Kashmir by sending infiltrators. Talking to newsmen in Calcutta, he said the beheading of the Norwegian tourist, Hans-Christian Ostro, is the latest attempt at stalling the peace process in the Kashmir Valley.

AFP on Government Spokesman's Remarks

*BK1908091095 Hong Kong AFP in English
0905 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Aug 19 (AFP) — The Indian authorities Saturday [19 August] appealed for the release of four Western hostages in Kashmir, a day after their Muslim captors threatened to kill them if elite commandoes tried a rescue operation.

"The government once again appeals to the captors to set the tourists free without any harm," an official spokesman said in the summer capital of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

"We hope (the militants) take into consideration the sentiments of the people of Kashmir and at the national and international level against the men's abduction and free them without further delay," he said. [passage omitted]

Kashmir Government Denies Planning Rescue

*BK1908160795 Delhi Doordarshan Television
Network in English 1430 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Jammu and Kashmir Government today denied reports that the security forces have launched an operation to rescue the four Western tourists held hostage by the Al-Faran militant outfit. An official spokesman said in Srinagar today that reports broadcast by foreign media on the military operation to rescue the hostages were baseless.

He said the government renewed its appeal to the captives to see reason and release the hostages unharmed. The spokesman said the government is in touch with the captives and efforts to secure the release of the hostages were on. He said only embassy officials of the four countries whose natives are held hostage by Al-Faran are in Srinagar to coordinate the efforts aimed at securing the release of hostages.

The prime minister has made it clear that the government will make all efforts to secure the safe release of the hostages. [passage omitted]

'Latest Information' Says Tourists 'Safe'

*BK1908162595 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government has again appealed to the Al-Faran militants to

release immediately the four foreign tourists on humanitarian grounds. An official spokesman said in Srinagar today the abductors must take into consideration the sentiments of the people of Kashmir, the agony of the family members of the abducted tourists, and the worldwide condemnation of the kidnappings and the killing of one of the tourists.

The spokesman said the authorities are in contact with the abductors and according to the latest information the foreign tourists are safe.

Possible Raid To Free Tourists Discussed

*BK2008133995 Islamabad PTV Television Network
in English 1300 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indian authorities are possibly considering a commando action on the hideout of the Al-Faran group, reports PTV special correspondent Ghulam Nabi Khayal:

[Begin Khayal recording] Indian authorities in Kashmir are considering a commando raid on a possible hideout where Al-Faran has held four Western trackers as hostages for the last six weeks now. Several secret meetings are being held here in Srinagar, with commandos from the United States, Britain, and Germany having been flown in from New Delhi for this purpose.

Kashmir Governor Krishna Rao told foreign media men that any military operation could be the last resort to overcome the deadlock, but the camping of the personnel from British Army Special Force and Special Air Service and the U.S. Army's Delta Force here for the last four days is indicative of a raid to rescue the hostages.

The Al-Faran is demanding the release of 15 jailed fighters before the hostages are set free. The Al-Faran spokesman has said in any case of any commando raid, the lives of all hostages could be endangered. The spokesman, however, told this correspondent today that all the four hostages — one American, two Britons, and one German — were safe and in good health. On the other side, the government spokesman categorically said that in exchange of any hostage, no jailed fighter shall be released under any circumstances.

I am Nabi Khayal for PTV news, Srinagar. [end recording]

Negotiators Reportedly Meet al-Faran Envoys

*BK2008154595 Hong Kong AFP in English
1532 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 20 (AFP) — Indian negotiators for the first time Sunday held

face-to-face talks with representatives of a Muslim rebel group holding hostage four Western tourists in Kashmir, an official said here.

The official said on condition of anonymity that the meeting with members of the Al-Faran group was held "somewhere in Kashmir."

The Al-Faran claimed responsibility for the abductions of five Western tourists, one of whom was murdered last weekend.

Plans for Military Operation Denied

BK2008155895 *Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has denied any plan to launch a military operation to secure the release of the four abducted foreign tourists. In a statement in Srinagar this evening, he said the use of the diplomatic channel is the best option available in the present circumstances.

The four tourists completed 48 days in custody of the Al-Faran militant outfit today. An official spokesman said contact with the militants is still continuing. The state government has urged the militants to release the hostages on humanitarian grounds.

In Jammu and Kashmir, security forces foiled a major infiltration attempt by the militants in the Punch sector today. A self-styled deputy commander of the Muslim Mujahidin group was shot dead by the security personnel. They also recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition.

Authorities Continue Efforts

BK2108031895 *Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, efforts are continuing to secure the release of the four foreign tourists kidnapped by militants in the Kashmir valley. An official spokesman said in Srinagar that the authorities are in contact with the abductors.

The government has again denied any plan to launch a military operation to secure the release of the hostages as speculated by a section of the press.

Meanwhile, militants tried to kidnap five youths who had gone for recruitment in the Army at Kharu. Four of them managed to escape, while one was killed by the militants.

Press, Radio Comment on Death of Foreign Tourist

'Shock Waves' From Hostage's Death Viewed

BK1708144895 *Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Aug p 12*

[Editorial: "Barbaric and brutal"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Even for a state which is inured to mindless violence, the killing of a Norwegian tourist who was taken captive by a militant outfit going by the name of Al-Faran in the most brutal manner has sent shock waves all over the country especially because there was the lingering hope that the foreign hostages would somehow be set free. One of the hostages had made a daring escape and the fate of the other four kidnapped persons now hangs in the balance. It is a pity that despite the presence of thousands of heavily armed para-military and Army personnel the pro-Pakistani fighters have been intensifying their area of operations on the one hand and creating terror on the other giving the impression that their writ runs almost unchallenged in select spots. The burning of the Charar Sharif shrine preceded by the occupation of the entire town by the militants could not be prevented by the administration and it acts like these that give further fillip to the militants to indulge in their anti-national adventures. It is true that the Government was in a dilemma inasmuch as any precipitate action on its part would have hastened the destructive activity but the hard lesson that it must have learnt by now is that it has no soft options and it must be prepared to take the most drastic and vehement action against the militants to deter them from indulging in violence and killings of innocent persons.

A time there was when it was thought that by giving a free hand there was the danger of the security forces being brutalised by the long drawn out campaign against an equally unrelenting enemy. Yet the State Government which is being helped by the Centre must have to display its strength in such a manner that no militant outfit would be in a position to perpetuate this kind of tragedy. The Al-Faran is a comparatively new militant outfit aided by Pakistan to create chaos and disorder in the State and it has marked its effective presence by killing the foreigner. Whether it will mete out the same treatment to the remaining hostages is a matter of deep speculation for in any case its hideouts could not be traced and there is no impediment either in fulfilling its threat to liquidate them unless some 20 of its men who are in detention in Kashmir jails are released as a reciprocal measure.

There is also no doubt that the Inter Services Intelligence of the hostile neighbour is stepping up its campaign in the Valley and quite possibly the Pakistani

authorities believe that instigation of more violence in the State could bring the Kashmir situation back into the world attention. The plea of the All Party Hurriyat Conference for the release of the hostages without conditions has been outright rejected and this has something to do with inter-militant politics for supremacy in the State. Now that even the faint glimmer of hope that the hostages, all being foreigners, would not be harmed has been quickly extinguished, the Government will have to consider how best to save the lives of the four hostages. The few indications that the militants were waking up to the folly of their ways have gone awry and the Government is therefore under a compulsion to rethink its strategy. Nor is this the time to regard the entire matter as a prestige issue. If ultimately it requires the release of Al-Faran detenus as a quid pro quo, the proposition cannot be ruled out. At least those who have been talking vociferously about the abuse of human rights in Kashmir should now come forward to denounce in the most unequivocal terms the shameless behaviour of the militant outfits. Accountability and transparency become relevant only when every one observes the rules of the game and the entire nation should condemn the barbaric act.

Pakistan Blamed for Hostage Crisis

*BK1908130095 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi
16 Aug 95 p 6*

[Editorial: "The Hostages in Srinagar"]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the brutal murder of the Norwegian tourist has evoked world-wide condemnation of the Kashmiri terrorists, efforts to release the four hostages, belonging to Britain, Germany and America and held in captivity by the Al-Faran, have also been intensified. India has formed crisis management groups and Britain and Germany have created similar independent groups, which are maintaining constant contact with the Government of India. Shedding crocodile tears, Benazir Bhutto has also denounced this inhuman act committed by the Al-Faran. We Indians sympathize with the Norwegian people, especially with the family of Hans Christian Ostro, who was killed so brutally. Norwegian diplomatic circles have expressed suspicion as to why only a Norwegian was chosen for this brutal murder. They showed their anger by not letting Indian journalists participate in the news conference summoned by the Norwegian Embassy last Monday. Their reaction is not unnatural. Despite their anger, we sympathize with them. Their suspicion is not entirely baseless. Since Norway did not have much political significance in international diplomacy, its citizen was conveniently murdered. For even the Kashmiri terrorists are well aware that killing British, German or American

tourists, also held captive, would have deprived them of the international support they have been receiving thus far. After all, these countries are also the breeding ground for terrorism. It was in these countries that this menace showed its ugly face for the first time. However, the Al-Faran still appears to nurse the vain hope that holding foreign tourists as hostages will give it international sympathy for its cause. But if these terrorists can kill innocent Ostro today, tomorrow they can kill anybody else too. Is there any difference between the terrorists of the Al-Faran and those that devastated Oklahoma or destroyed New York's World Trade Center a few years back? This is an occasion when all the people of the developed countries also should unanimously condemn terrorism. Terrorism is reprehensible whether it shows its ugly face in Kashmir, Cairo, or Oklahoma. No demand raised by terrorists, irrespective of its genesis or purpose, can be justified against the background of such brutal and downright inhuman acts. Perhaps, gradually, veering round to accepting this fact as truth, Benazir is now changing her stance and trying to show that Pakistan has no connection with the terrorism in Kashmir. But who does not know the intimate relations between the Al-Faran and the Harkat-ul-Ansar? Who is not aware that the Taleban on the Afghan border and the Al-Faran in Kashmir are both patronized by the ISI [Inter-services Intelligence] If the Pakistan leadership, after sponsoring terrorism in Kashmir and menacing the whole state, is trying to prove their innocence and lack of complicity now, it is because they fear lest their complicity in fanning terrorism should make the United States declare Pakistan a terrorist state. However against this entire backdrop, the main responsibility for having the hostages released without bowing to the terrorists' demands rests exclusively on the shoulders of the Indian Government. There have been indications that the Government of India might release some of the dreaded extremists in exchange for the release of the hostages in the terrorists' captivity. Our considered opinion is that any such step is likely to prove suicidal for the Indian Government.

Norwegian's Death 'Act of Barbarism'

*BK1708111095 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 17 Aug 95*

[Commentary by M.K. Tikku]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The gruesome murder of Norwegian tourist, Hans-Christian Ostro, by members of the Al-Faran group in Kashmir was an act of utter barbarism, but what was even worse than the killing was the manner in which it was done. The team of doctors which conducted the postmortem on Ostro's body at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi has

come out with details that suggest unspeakable barbarity on the part of those who carried out the killing. The team of doctors, which included a Norwegian doctor, has come to the conclusion that Ostro was murdered while asleep. His throat had been slit with a blunt-edged weapon and he had died of the resultant bleeding. But, apparently not satisfied with the utter inhumanity of that act, the killers had hit him twice again with the same weapon in order to sever the head from his body. Here, was an innocent civilian, a tourist, and a foreigner who along with four others was abducted by a group of armed mercenaries and subjected to the persistent trauma of confinement under the shadow of death and then he was beheaded while in sleep.

It is difficult to find a worse example of man's inhumanity to man. Ostro's abductors had apparently committed this brutal act in order to secure the release of a group of hard-core militants responsible for a number of killings. That several of these people are not even Kashmiris give some indication that the forces of their instruction and inspiration were located outside the country. But, in Ostro's killing, the Al-Faran group has shown a capacity for such barbarism that nobody either in Kashmir or outside has been willing to own them up. Even Pakistan has been feeling terribly embarrassed about its association with the Al-Faran, though one of its senior politician and religious leader had earlier claimed contact with the group and had sought to carve out the role of a self-styled mediator for himself.

It is not surprising, therefore, that this gruesome murder has provoked universal condemnation. The All Party Hurriyat Conference in Kashmir gave a strike call in the valley yesterday in protest over the killing. The latest to join this chorus of condemnations is the Organization of Islamic Conference. It has condemned the abduction of foreign tourists and the murder of the less fortunate Norwegian and has appealed to Al-Faran to release the four remaining tourists from captivity. It is to be hoped that good sense will prevail and the four foreigners will be set free soon — for Ostro would come to Kashmir for trekking in its beautiful mountains. His murder could not have anything to do with religion or politics. All it has to do with is barbarism of the most brutal kind.

'Worth' of Westerner's Life Examined

BK1908130795 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
in English 18 Aug 95 pp 1, 20

["News Analysis" by Rahul Bedi: "Westerner Must Die for World To Awake"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Kashmir dispute finally got a hearing in the UN Security Council on Monday when its president condemned the beheading of Hans

Christian-Ostro, the Norwegian hostage, by Al-Faran militants two days earlier.

Mr Wisnumurti Nugroho, the Indonesian Ambassador to the UN and Security Council head for August, said the UN was deeply concerned over the "reappearance" of kidnapping in Kashmir, considered an act of terrorism and roundly condemned by the international community.

While flaying the barbaric killing of Christian-Ostro, the Indonesian Ambassador, however, forgot to offer his condolences to the families of four Kashmiris also executed by other militant groups, the day the 27-year-old Norwegian's decapitated torso was recovered in Anantnag district.

Presumably, he was either not briefed about the four, or he was and did not think it worth a mention.

But in his temporary capacity as Security Council president, Mr Nugroho can be excused his ignorance when he talks of the "reappearance" of kidnapping in Kashmir.

Kidnapping, for the Security Council's information, has never stopped ever since Kashmiri militants launched their war which so far, has claimed around 13,000 lives. It has diminished in intensity but certainly not ended.

But when the UN Security Council head refers to the "reappearance of kidnapping" in Kashmir, he obviously means the taking of foreign, i.e., Western hostages and not the 3000 odd locals who, over the years, have been abducted by various tanzems or militant groups.

And, by doing so, he lays the UN — which still maintains its first-ever UN observer offices in Srinagar and Kargil in India, and Muzaffarabad and Islamabad in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) — open to the charge of indifference and, unfortunately, racism.

For, it is now cynically plain that the brutal killing of one Westerner by militants, but not the death of over 13,000, many of whom have suffered a fate similar if not worse than Christian-Ostro, results in the unilateral condemnation of terrorism in Kashmir internationally.

This arbitrary computation, however, might help those who have long tried to arrive at a ball-park figure of how much a Westerner's life is worth when measured against people from the Third World.

Put crudely in the Kashmir context, one Western life snuffed out by militants is a greater and condemnation-worthy tragedy than over 13,000 Indians killed in Kashmir's armed insurgency so far.

The object here is not to irreverently dismiss (Christian Ostro's) killing which, without reservation, deserves the strongest condemnation.

It is merely to reiterate a reality: it takes the kidnapping and murder of a Westerner to sensitise international (read Western) opinion to Kashmir, perhaps Asia's most volatile flash-point involving as it does two countries which are nuclear-capable.

The US, Britain and Germany and other Western countries have, in the past, routinely condemned violence in Kashmir.

The British and American Ambassadors, besides EC heads of mission, recently visited Kashmir and made precocious statements on the 48-year-old dispute, violating accepted, diplomatic norms.

Despite their inexcusable precocity, however, their concern was distant, patronisingly avuncular, until two Britons, An American, a German and Christian Ostro were kidnapped last month.

And, with Christian-Ostro's death Kashmir's reality brutally and suddenly forced its way onto their radar screens.

Understandably, the objectives of the Western Governments involved, is to secure the safe release of their respective countrymen under notice from Al-Faran activists who want to exchange them for 15 jailed comrades.

But New Delhi, which has steadfastly refused to meet the militants' demands, is reportedly under pressure from the US, Britain and Germany to surreptitiously strike a "deal" with the Al-Faran fearing the worst for the hostages after the Norwegian's death.

The simple reasoning is that in the past New Delhi has traded militants for Ms Rubiya Sayeed, the daughter of former Home Minister Mufti Mohd. Sayeed, kidnapped by Kashmiri militants in 1990.

Why not follow the earlier precedent, however compromising it may seem or harmful to the Indian State, they appear to argue; after all, the lives of four Western hostages are hanging in balance.

And, though publicly these Western countries take the higher moral ground, saying they are opposed to trading with militants or giving in to their demands, security officials privately concede there is a patronising attitude in their dealings which indicates that none of them would be averse to a trade-off.

Extending the analogy further, there is also a near certainty that the West would quieten down the issue of human rights abuses by the Indian security forces in Kashmir if the four hostages are safely released.

And, if for some unfortunate and tragic reason they are not, then human rights activists in Kashmir can

expect to be overworked in the coming months. But without significant, official international backing or encouragement.

Article Assails al-Faran's 'Dastardly Act'

BK2008142495 Madras THE HINDU in English
19 Aug 95 p 12

[Article by Inder Malhotra: "Hostage killing and after"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is entirely understandable that Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao should have begun his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence Day with a strong condemnation of the barbaric beheading of one of the five foreign hostages held by the unspeakable militant outfit in Kashmir that styles itself as Al-Faran.

This dastardly act, combined with the sword of uncertainty hanging over the heads of remaining four hostages, is a measure of not only the savagery of the thugs and killers masquerading as crusaders for political cause. It is also indicative of the lengths to which Pakistan is willing to go in supporting terrorists and secessionists in Kashmir lionised by it as "freedom fighters", Islamabad's doublespeak and bland dissociation from Al-Faran notwithstanding.

Doubtless there has been widespread revulsion across the world against the current hostage crisis in the high hills of the Kashmir valley, as there usually is in similar circumstances anywhere. The countries whose nationals are undergoing the chilling ordeal — Norway, Britain, Germany and the United States — are naturally more furious than others. It makes sense that they cannot give expression to their feelings about Pakistan's trans-border export of terrorism into Jammu and Kashmir while frantic efforts are being made, in cooperation with Islamabad, to get the hostages released unharmed. But the question is whether this situation will change after the hostage crisis ends, as it is bound to, one way or the other. Specifically, will the Western countries led by the U.S. stand up, expose Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism and act as their laws on the subject require them to?

Regrettably, there is nothing to show that they will. This is particularly true of the U.S. — the most important country in this respect, as in many others — to which, let us face it, both this country and Pakistan often rush with their complaints against each other.

What Pakistan has been doing by way of aiding and abetting terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir has never been a secret from the American authorities who are extremely well informed on the subject. Any number of instances can be cited but a small one should do because

it is a pertinent one. In its 1994 report on terrorism across the globe, the U.S. State Department described the monstrous activities of Harkatul Ansar in far more telling detail than the Indian Government has ever cared to make public. And it has to be noted that all the 15 men whose release from prison Al-Faran is demanding in exchange for setting the hostages free belong to the self-same Harkatul Ansar, with its headquarters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and direct links with the Pakistani MP, Maulana Fazlul Rahman, whose sudden arrival in New Delhi at an earlier stage of the hostage drama and equally abrupt departure are still shrouded in mystery.

And yet, despite repeated remonstrance by India on the issue of Pakistan's export of terrorism into Indian territory, the U.S. has steadfastly refused to call a spade a spade. This, interestingly, was the case even when Pakistan was on America's "watch-list" for State-sponsored terrorism. Washington insiders used to say then, laughingly, that those expecting Pakistan to be bracketed with Libya, Sudan and Syria were living in a "paradise of their own making."

Of late, the American ploy has been that such Pakistani help as reaches the Kashmiri militants from across the Line of Control comes from individuals and organisations outside the Government's control.

It is very unlikely that there will be a material difference in this situation on account of the current hostage crisis, no matter how it ends eventually. In private, American pressure on Pakistan to desist from aiding terrorism might increase somewhat but to expect a change in the public stance of the U.S. would be unrealistic.

This is so because in recent months there has been a conspicuous increase in America's stakes in, and support to, Pakistan. The Clinton administration's determined bid to provide Pakistan with a package of sophisticated weaponry by disregarding the Pressler Amendment and thus legitimising Pakistan's nuclear arsenal speaks for itself, as does the turning of the blind eye by Washington to Beijing's transfer of M-11 to Islamabad.

The irony of ironies is that, regardless of what Pakistan may be doing in Kashmir or elsewhere, the U.S. clings to the fond belief that a "moderate" Pakistan, under the leadership of Ms. Benazir Bhutto, would help it fight Islamic fundamentalism in a region of great strategic importance to it. For her part, Ms. Bhutto has worked overtime to foster this impression. She has backed her rhetoric with the extradition to the U.S. of alleged terrorists like Ramzi, accused of terrorist acts directed against America itself, and Pakistani druglords who were until recently too powerful to be touched.

There is another factor which has to be taken into account in order to figure out the likely course of the U.S. policy towards this part of the world. The U.S. foreign policy establishment is in utter disarray. Mr. Clinton is beleaguered and harried by the Republican majority in Congress. He is foxed by an array of intricate problems that range from the Balkans to the Taiwan Straits. Under these circumstances, the administration's South Asian agenda tends to be hijacked by the likes of Ms. Robin Raphel, Assistant Secretary of State for the region, who have their own fish to fry.

This and the other ramifications of the Kashmir situation — including the almost certain Pakistani attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue at the golden jubilee session of the U.N. General Assembly — will have to be dealt with by Indian diplomacy which has its task cut out for it. But the basic problem in Kashmir lies at home. And this domestic dimension deserves much greater and better coordinated attention than it seems to have received so far.

Clearly, the heart-rending situation can be resolved only through the restoration of the political process, holding of elections (something Mr. Narasimha Rao is reported to be keen on doing in October) and discussing the future of Jammu and Kashmir within the Indian Union with a State Government duly elected in a free and fair poll. However, no worthwhile progress towards this happy denouement can be made until the Indian State reestablishes on the ground situation in the valley at least the kind of control that it had, say, in 1987. This has not yet happened.

To be sure, the security forces and other Central and State agencies doing an extremely difficult job against heavy odds have chalked up some achievements to their credit after the horrific tragedy of Charar Sharif. The peaceful completion of the Amarnath yatra (Hindu pilgrimage) is a plus point. So is the trouble-free celebration of Independence Day in Srinagar, in sharp contrast to the terrible explosion in Jammu that had disrupted the Republic Day parade in the State's winter capital. It is also a valuable gain that most Kashmiris are getting fed up with the reign of the gun. But then there is the other side of the coin which must not be ignored.

The apparent impunity with which the killer gangs are able to plant bombs in the heart of the Jammu city, far away from their normal area of operation, is nothing short of alarming. No less disturbingly, from their base in the Muslim-majority district of Doda in the Jammu region, insurgent groups appear to have spread out in other parts of Kishtwar. There can be no other

explanation for the ambushes of the military personnel there.

The discernible pattern of movement by the infamous Al-Faran is also a source of grave concern. The American hostage who escaped did so from a spot in close proximity to the Amarnath cave. The headless body of the luckless Norwegian was found at a rather long distance from there. Since then the gang has moved farther afield, dragging its helpless hostages with it. In other words, in spite of being reviled by one and all, Al-Faran is able to get or commandeer hospitality, shelter and perhaps some logistical support.

Above all, the chronic lack of coordination and even cooperation among various organisations and agencies supposedly engaged in a common task of the highest national importance persists. But of this the less said the better.

Iran

IRNA Chief Interviewed on Iraqi Defections

LD1808194395 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 17 Aug 95

[Studio interview with IRNA Managing Director Feraydun Verdinezhad by unidentified correspondent; date not given; from the "Political Roundtable" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] Recently we heard that two of Saddam's sons-in-law ran away to Jordan. It will be interesting to our viewers if you, as the person in charge of IRNA, tells us something about these characters.

[Verdinezhad] Well, the Iraqi regime has a particular structure. It relies on an organized, centrally based party. This party, that is the Ba'th Party, is led mainly by the family of Saddam Husayn and those who support him. Those living in certain areas of Iraq, such as Mosul and Tikrit, lead the party. One can say that the Ba'th Party is run by a family, as is the regime. [passage omitted] Concerning General Husayn Kamil Hasan, one can say he was, in reality, an accomplice of the Ba'th Party and Saddam Husayn inside Iraq. He has no support among the Iraqi people or Iraqi opposition forces. It is unlikely that he will be accepted by the people because they know him well. They know about his previous role and his cooperation with the regime. Of course, certain groups or political forces may cooperate with him to a certain extent. But hitherto all the messages supporting his defection have contained a certain amount of uncertainty and doubt about him.

[Correspondent] After the escape of Saddam's sons-in-law to Jordan, different scenarios about Iraq's future

government have been foreseen. Those scenarios can be summarized in a few categories. Would you explain, please.

[Verdinezhad] Yes, after he went to Jordan and sought asylum, and asylum was immediately granted by the Jordanian Government and Shah Husayn, various views were formed in various political, intellectual and media quarters in the world, speculating on the incident and on the conditions which have arisen. There are a number of views, which some people voice in terms of possible scenarios in connection with the incident.

One, which could be said is a weak point and lacks a strong information basis, is that Mr. Saddam, to safeguard the future rule of his family in Iraq and to ensure the continuation of the rule of the Ba'th Party, in a coordinated scenario with the West and Jordan, sent to Jordan his sons-in-law, particularly Gen. Husayn Kamil — who was an ally and played a major role in the government and the leadership of the Ba'th Party — so that he could become active in opposition and dissident groups and keep the [Tikriti] family in power in the future structure of the Iraqi Government, in which Saddam might possibly not be a member.

Of course, there is a point of view that Saddam need not have invested so much on such a move. He need not have dispatched outside the country and to Jordan both his sons-in-law and a total of about 30 of his family, and also his daughters; and that that much expenditure was not necessary — particularly since the Iraqi Government is not popular; it is based on confrontation and security. If the people felt for one moment that the bayonet has been removed and the power is no longer there, naturally it would be difficult for them to continue the plan inside Iraq. Therefore, that view, from a political standpoint, is not very strong, and some people reject it.

Another view which exists as a second scenario regarding this defection and escape is that Iraq's internal problems caused by international sanctions, lack of resources for proper links between Iraq and its neighbors, and the economic, political, security and social problems which exist within that country have heightened disputes among the Ba'th Party leadership, especially among those who divided the power in Iraq among one family. Therefore since they could not agree among themselves there was a natural need for some individuals to be eliminated from them. It may be that that general and others summed up the situation thus, that if they remained in Iraq they would end up with the same fate as their predecessors, and there will be no other fate for them but being executed, or staged accidents, etc., and that they will be eliminated from the scene. That is the same as what we heard following the incident to the

effect that one of Saddam Husayn's half-brothers was shot and wounded by Saddam's son, along with several of his bodyguards and wife, and he later died.

That demonstrate that if this scenario — that is this second scenario — is worthy of attention, then lack of personal safety and the heightening of disputes within the Ba'th Party act as a second factor which could be the cause of those individuals' defection.

But a third idea and scenario — which is stronger than the other two, and has clearer signs and better indications — is that the Americans, in order to enable themselves to pursue their plans regarding Iraq — plans which mean maintaining the current structure of the Iraqi Government and the Ba'th Party, Iraqi Army and war machine, the status of the division of power and sovereignty in the hands of this family, and the Kurds and Shi'as not attaining power. [sentence as heard] If that scenario, that move, is to be enacted then there is a need for the movement of individuals within Iraq to be carried out in such a way that the unity of the Ba'th Party is maintained, the Iraqi administrative and Army structure and organization is maintained, the Iraqi war-machine and intelligence organization — which in principle are the guarantors of the sovereignty of Iraq over the people — remain intact, and also there is a need for a pawn which somehow has a background in Iraq, has a background in the Tikriti family and Saddam, has worked there, and at the same time is not Saddam himself. Therefore, one of the pawns that could have been chosen within that framework, by America and some western states and some regional oil concerns and probably Jordan, could be the scenario of the defection of that family and that general to that place. Of course, in that connection, bearing in mind the the people's view of that individual and that family is the same as the one they have about Saddam, it is not certain that that scenario can really be carried out.

On the other hand, those who believe in this theory and say that within Iraq the move has been organized by America for that individual to go to Jordan, add that America, in order to support the Iraqi national congress, led by Mr. Ahmad Chalabi, needed a military situation to take shape in that combination and become strengthened. To guarantee that military move, then who better than an individual who is from the body of the Iraqi Army. Therefore it is not unlikely that soon we will witness talks and coordination between General Kamil, Ahmad Chalabi and the Iraqi National Congress, and for them to manage to organize military support and a war machine as a so-called national liberation army — or something like it — against the Iraqi Government. But the Shi'as and, naturally, the Kurds — in my view — will look upon that with doubt and concern.

[Correspondent] Following that incident and the defection of Saddam's two sons-in-law we witnessed extensive propaganda by the U.S. media. Did that propaganda take place along the lines of your remarks or did it have other reasons?

[Verdinezhad] If we accept the third scenario and theory, and accept that the move was organized at the international level, and that that individual, with his defection from Iraq, has undertaken a mission to safeguard the Ba'thist rule, to safeguard Iraq's territorial integrity and safeguard the Iraqi war machine, then we must accept there has to be a news and intelligence support.

On the one hand, with regard to the Americans — despite their earlier propaganda which said that Saddam will be toppled soon, the sanction will take effect soon, and there will be changes throughout Iraq soon, and there will be a popular government — nothing was done for a long time in that regard, and there was an international silence and a political, military and economic cease-fire. Therefore, when the move took place, if the third theory be correct, then it required a news and intelligence support, and it had to be raised as a major incident. Therefore, since such defections have taken place, if the third point of view is correct, such a move required information and intelligence support. If this is the case, the move should be viewed as an important and international event to break the morale of Saddam, the Iraqi people and the opposition forces.

If we accept the second scenario, the one that says internal differences have led to this move, then the Americans intend to jump on the bandwagon and portray this as a very important incident which will lead to Saddam's downfall very soon.

Therefore, I don't think the story is as big as the Americans portray it to be. I don't think this is the final countdown for Saddam's downfall, as they are saying through their international propaganda campaign.

In any case, Gen. Kamil Hasan was an accomplice to the events in Iraq, to that regime, and to all the crimes committed in Iraq. He could not remain there, it does not matter for what reason. It could be to undertake a mission. [sentence as heard] He may have been forced out, or his trip to Jordan could be a coordinated move with the Iraqi regime itself.

At the most, he will try to split the Iraqi Army, make some moves inside the Ba'th Party or he may even try to form a liberation army. However, the point that was raised yesterday or today by the British press is an interesting one worth noting. They said: If Gen. Husayn Kamil really had the ability to do something, why didn't

he do it when he was inside Iraq? Why has he left Iraq today? The fact that he is outside Iraq far from the reach of the people, and the fact that he wants to establish contacts with the support of other countries, according to the western media — especially the British press — means that he will not do much.

Today we can see that there is a great amount of uncertainty among the various groups and the media. They doubt if Gen. Husayn is a suitable replacement for Saddam Husayn. Many sectors of the media respond with a no. It is said: No, he is not the right candidate to replace Saddam, establish the future Iraqi Government or maintain the Ba'th Party and the war machine. He will not be able to do this.

And as far as I know, the various opposition groups look upon him with uncertainty. They have not met him, and their contacts have not led anywhere. It is unlikely that the international propaganda campaign will be an effective support for his move.

[Correspondent] Mr. Verdinezhad, considering the points you have raised concerning the scenarios that are mentioned in order to explain Saddam's sons-in-laws' escape to Jordan, what will happen to the regional position of Saddam Husayn, especially since it seems that a split has taken place between Iraq and Jordan?

[Verdinezhad] Yes. Just after the Iraqi regime was forced to withdraw from Kuwait to beyond its own borders — and at the time many people thought they would withdraw all the way to Baghdad — Jordan and the Palestinians, Yasir 'Arafat, which supported the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, changed their position rapidly. They tried to reestablish their relations with the small Arab Persian Gulf countries. They tried to regain international credibility. They portrayed their support for the Ba'th Party and Saddam Husayn as a tactical move. They tried to tell the world, especially the Americans, British and the West in general, that the support King Husayn had expressed for Saddam was not really a fundamental support. They said King Husayn had to do it because he was scared the Ba'th Party and the Iraqi Army would attack Jordan. So he had to keep silent in the face of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, or even express support for that move.

Following Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the weakened position of the Iraqi Army and Saddam, as well as the implementation of international sanctions, King Husayn and Jordan gradually began playing the role of a mediator and go-between between the Iraqi regime and the outside world. They maintained contacts with the Ba'th Party geographically, economically and politically. Even the Iraqi people, rulers, politicians and military used Jordan as a link with the outside.

Therefore, relations between Iraq and Jordan remained limited and not very warm.

Concerning other countries of the Persian Gulf, Kuwait and [Saudi] Arabia had a much stronger stance against Iraq and the cold relations have remained. Following the recent event with members of Saddam's family, these countries might feel that a change in Iraq is closer or that Saddam may fall. Their relations will, naturally, not improve, and even get worse. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will probably spend more petrodollars on the American and western armies in the region — especially since the U.S. Administration and the President himself have announced that they will support Jordan if Saddam attacks. Of course, these things cost money, and Jordan does not have the resources to pay for them. The countries of the Persian Gulf, those with oil, will have to pay, especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain and Oman have closer relations with Iraq which, I think under the current conditions, will remain. They will not improve. The UAE, which has economic relations with Iraq, will maintain them at the same level.

On the whole, we can say that Saddam's relations with his neighbors, if the Baghdad regime understands the situation, have a slim chance of improving. However, this inclination does not exist among the countries of the region, especially the Arabs (as heard). Turkey might become active at this stage, but only under instructions from NATO and western countries.

[Correspondent] Let us have a look at the situation of Iran and Iraq, if you agree. Since you referred to Iraq's neighbors, then Iran is taken into consideration as one of Iraq's big neighbors. Can you comment?

[Verdinezhad] Well, our relations with Iraq, because the Ba'th Party's conception long ago after the Islamic revolution and its victory. [incomplete sentence as heard] They thought that it was a good opportunity, that they could attack our country and topple the newly formed government and, in their own words, invade a large country which has oil and annex it to the Ba'th Party's point of view. Since then the Ba'th Party has never had a positive and fundamental view regarding Iran, and there has never been any political idea or fundamental plan in the Iraqi rule regarding the formation of serious, bilateral, coordinated relations with us which would guarantee the interests of the two countries.

Whenever there has been any international pressure on Iraq, and the Iraqis have faced hardship, they have shown closeness to us as a move. But when that pressure has alleviated or been lifted then once again they have created difficulties in our relations.

What the Islamic Republic has expected from Iraq — which has been raised sincerely by Iran since the adoption of UN Resolution No. 598, toward which much work has also been done — is for us to have relations on the basis of bilateral interests, that our peoples bear no animosity toward each other, and the steps envisaged in Resolution No. 598 be implemented stage by stage. For instance, some of our prisoners of war are still captive in Iraq; they have not been released. [passage omitted] The prisoner-of-war issue is one of the remaining issues. Naturally Iraq also has some POWs in Iran who must be released in return for the release of our POWs.

Another issue which concerns us and Iraq is the issue of the exact demarcation of the border and the sign-posting of our borders. We have not reached complete peace yet. A cease-fire and the ending of hostilities have taken place, but total peace and the elimination of the status of war between the two countries and the establishment of definite ties have not taken place, our borders have not been determined, travel by the peoples of the two countries has not been normalized, and there are still problems in this regard. It is natural that for those tasks to be undertaken and for coordination to take place Iraq must carry out its promises regarding Resolution No. 598. Iran itself is ready.

It seems that, of course, with the pressures that have recently been exerted on Iraq, and with Jordan coming round to calling for a change in the Iraqi rule and the toppling of Saddam, since it considers the circumstances to be right, there may be a summing up once again within the Iraqi rule, and this time they may come toward establishing ties with Iran in a more definite way. Of course, Iran will certainly take steps in that direction in order to safeguard its own interests and in consideration of the interests of the people of Iraq. Obviously, Iran will move toward those frameworks, which it has done before.

[Correspondent] For my last question, if you would agree we will talk about the future of Iraq.

[Verdinezhad] About the future of Iraq; in my view, one should see what Iraq is made of. If we look into the Iraqi situation or, analyze it, as political people say, it comprises the person of Saddam, as a fundamental axis in Iraq's government. The second is oil, as the main backbone and artery of Iraq's economy. The third is the Ba'th Party, as the main organization of the government, intelligence power, and the political and administrative system ruling over Iraq. The fourth is the Army, as a principle element.

If we regard those factors, we should see what those axes would become in the future. The Americans, because of their past slogans and the conditions they

have laid down, would like to preserve factors such as the Army, the Ba'th Party, and oil in Iraq, and just change the fourth factor, that is Saddam.

But, if Saddam, as an axis which is preserving the security and political rule inside Iraq, were removed, it is not known whether the rest of the structure will remain intact. Therefore, the Americans are at a crossroads. On the one hand, after the oil war and Iraq's departure from Kuwait, the Americans declared that Saddam must go and his government must fall. They even went as far as the gates of Baghdad. However, they quickly relented and felt that if the government of Iraq were to be taken away from the Ba'th Party and the present war machine it would fall into the people's hands. And if it were to fall into the people's hands, the Shi'ites, who are in a majority there, the Kurds who have certain rights, and the Sunnis who live in the central and other parts, would have a certain amount of power and want a share in the government. And that, apparently, did not conform to the interests of the West and America. Therefore, under the present circumstances, the factor which was to be changed — that is, the person of Saddam Husayn — was maintained. And it is still maintained to date.

If we were to predict the future of Iraq, in my view, since America and the West are not prepared to spend a lot of money in connection with Iraq, sacrifice lives in the region, or start another war here, if Saddam Husayn's government and his army are sensible and do not do anything crazy, in my opinion, it would be unlikely that the Americans would do anything. Of course, they recently planned military exercises in Jordan, which apparently will start on Friday for two weeks. They have sent fleets to the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean, including the destroyer Roosevelt, and plan to stage maneuvers codenamed "Infinite Moonlight" in the south of Amman, in Jordan. But it does not seem that any of this has any operational or military aspect, but more of a deterrent and preemptive purpose, and is also aimed at scaring the Iraqi Government and people.

Therefore, maintaining the oil would lead to conditions remaining the same, because they do not wish the oil artery to be severed in the future. Although Iraq does not export oil today, America wants it to remain as a reserve; the Iraqi Army and the war machine should remain intact. But war or revolution inside Iraq would destroy it. Therefore, the West and America do not want that. The Ba'th Party is the best safeguard for the interests of the West and America, because it does not possess an Islamic ideology. It has been able to ensure its sovereignty in recent years through suppression, the use of the bayonet and security measures. If it were

touched the resulting events might be beyond the control of the West and America, and power might fall into the people's hands.

Also, if Saddam were removed it is not known how the conditions inside Iraq would be, and what would happen if things change and the people's present fear of Saddam is gone in the future. Therefore, I think large-scale war and a military clash unlikely, unless Saddam makes another mistake, and starts one. I think the Americans are stuck, and until they have found a suitable replacement for Saddam Husayn they will not change anything in Iraq, and undoubtedly try not to hand the reigns of power to the people.

[Correspondent] Mr. Verdinezhad, thank you for giving us your time.

[Verdinezhad] I thank you and all the producers and our dear people.

Motives Behind Pelletreau Visit to Jordan Viewed

LD1808165295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary: "America's Fresh Provocations in the Middle East Region"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. assistant defense secretary for Middle East Affairs [title as heard], Robert Pelletreau, arrived in the Jordanian capital Amman on Thursday [17 August] to review and examine the latest developments concerned with the two Iraqi senior military officials' defection to Jordan. It is alleged that his chief goal in travelling to Jordan is to convince that country's government to halt its cooperation with Iraq.

Analysts on the regional issues believe that the U.S. Government, in the ongoing sensitive conditions, is attempting to make an excuse out of the defection to Jordan of two Iraqi authorities, subsequent to Iraqi threats to Jordan, to widen its military presence in the region. Of course, it is also possible that the American officials are trying to come to terms with the Iraqi military men to pave the ground for overthrowing Saddam.

To guarantee the success of such a scheme the Americans need to see the severance of Jordan's economic ties with Iraq, because in case of the severance of these relations an important blow will be inflicted on Iraq's crisis-stricken economic situation, and as a consequence of such a blow, Saddam's regime will be put under constraint more than any other time.

The visit to Jordan of the U.S. assistant secretary of state will actually provide America with a fresh (?chance) to consult the Jordanian officials to be briefed on the

latest internal developments in Iraq through holding talks with the Iraqi defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan in Jordan. Most analysts have centered on the occurrence of some fresh developments in the region, emphasizing that under any given conditions America will attempt to take advantage of the situation in Iraq to justify its illegitimate presence in the region.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian Government, that has publicly turned its back on its old ally, and by making the necessary concessions to America, is attempting to compensate for its past erroneous policy on backing Saddam in his aggression on Kuwait. The Jordanian Foreign Minister Kabariti's visit to Saudi Arabia, too, is concisely assessed in the same context. But is not still Iraq if America can find a suitable figure to substitute Saddam in Iraq; a substitution which backs up a desired American policy in the region. [sentence as heard] This issue has led to some doubts among the Jordanian officials, that in case of the setback of America's new policy, Jordan will be left facing Iraq, and perhaps that is why the Jordanian foreign minister, in response to a request to sever its economic ties with Iraq, has said there are no reasons to sever these relations.

Now one has to wait and see if the American secretary of state, in his meeting with the Jordanian officials, will be able to offer them the necessary assurances.

Iraqi Defections; U.S., Jordanian Positions Viewed

NC1908094095 Tehran SALAM in Persian 13 Aug 95 p 5

[Commentary by M.Veysi: "Fishing in Murky Waters"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The escape by two high-level Iraqi officials and their families to Jordan, where they have been given political asylum by King Husayn, has again focused international news circles on events in Iraq.

There have been varying reactions to the flight by General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who headed Iraq's ordnance industries, was the son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn, and was considered one of the mainstays of the ruling Ba'thist government.

General Kamil's absconding—whether from the point of view of his political role or his closeness to Saddam—can be considered an unforeseen and irrevocable blow to Saddam personally and to his government. But assigning too much unnecessary importance to the incident would only serve to enhance his importance in Iraq's political system, from which the enemies of Iraq and U.S. political and news circles would reap political capital.

In assessing the reality of this incident in terms of developments in Iraq, we must not go to extremes.

Against such a backdrop, you could say that the flight by General Kamil Hasan, which will entail problems for Saddam, will boost the position of his foreign enemies and internal opponents. It is important to appraise the U.S. role in directing events.

Naturally, U.S. policy regarding Saddam takes two forms. If Washington's policy is based on retaining Saddam to intimidate the Arabs and extort privileges and economic and political opportunities from them, then the Americans cannot encourage actions such as the getaway staged by General Kamil Hasan. So they would, ostensibly, consider it important.

But according to observers of regional events, the United States seeks to topple Saddam, but only in a special set of circumstances. First, the Americans are seeking an appropriate replacement for Saddam from within the Iraqi ruling party, not from the opponents of the regime. This is because Washington does not favor radical changes in the Iraqi political system in the post-Saddam era.

But the Americans do not want chaos and disarray after Saddam and are apprehensive about those individuals coming to power who have not pledged to uphold U.S. interests in the region. Finally, the United States does not want Saddam's downfall to coincide with a weakening of Iraq and a strengthening of the Islamic government in Iran.

For these reasons, the United States has adopted a cautious policy over developments in Iraq. While trying to bring the dissident generals and officials of Iraq under its umbrella of support, the United States has sought to rally Iraqi opposition groups such as the Kurds in Dublin for talks under Washington's supervision. In such circumstances the flight by General Kamil Hasan can be viewed as a boost to this policy, since he also belongs to Iraq's elite and is an opponent of Saddam and of the hardline anti-American groups in Iraq. He is also an influential individual in the Iraqi Armed Forces.

It is hardly a secret to anyone, including the Americans, that there are limits to Washington's forging ahead with its policies in Baghdad and that it is difficult for a country that for years has been administered by the distinctive Ba'thist system with its leftist inclinations to suddenly be transformed into a U.S. ally. This is why it appears that the United States is seeking a non-hostile system in Iraq, one that would at least not attack U.S. interests in the region and that could be used as a lever to exert pressure against Iran.

Jordan has an important position in this segment of U.S. policy, as it seeks to distance itself gradually from Iraq under Saddam Husayn in view of the financial

promises given to it by the United States following its compromise with Israel.

To elicit financial assistance from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United States and to extricate the country from its current isolation among Washington's Arab allies, King Husayn will certainly agree with the United States on this issue. But while King Husayn seeks to enhance Jordan's role in Iraq, he keeps in mind the reality that Saddam's government remains intact and could remain so for years—in Jordan's neighborhood.

The practical outcome of this assessment is that he should forge cautious closeness with the U.S. Arab allies and strive to defuse Iraq's fury. He should also seek to control the continuing negative fallout of this act on Amman-Baghdad relations.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. 'Meddling' Over Iraq

*LD1908120095 Tehran IRNA in English
1130 GMT 19 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 19 (IRNA) — The United States should realize that meddling in the internal affairs of other countries will one day face the wrath of the masses, a morning daily wrote Saturday [19 August].

On the pretext of reacting to what it terms, "unusual Iraqi military movements," the United States has once again stationed warships in the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, and ordered pre-positioned material in the region to move closer to Iraq, the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES added.

It reiterated that the United States already has 20,000 troops in the Persian Gulf region, including 2,000 marines engaged in training exercises with Jordanian troops.

"Besides, following its mischievous objectives in the future permutation of forces inside Iraq, assuming the role of self-proclaimed superpower of the world, the United States is probably out this time to pressure Jordan to stop its trade relations with Iraq in order to strangle the ruling Ba'th Party," the editorial stressed.

But the chief victim of the new U.S. policy would be the innocent people of Iraq who have been reeling under the UN-U.S.-imposed sanctions, it underlined.

The United States is once again out to strengthen its clutches over the flow of Persian Gulf oil, it said adding, one of the surest ways to fulfill this desire is further intensification of U.S. meddling in the domestic affairs of the Arab states.

"Creation of threat perception for the Arabs has been one Washington tactic since the formation of these mini-states," it noted.

History has proven that an alien power cannot guarantee the security of these states, it stated adding, "the Arab states of the region had better strengthen regional ties instead of relying on foreigners."

Instead of hatching plots for the future of Iraq, the United States should prepare a congenial ground for Iraqis to determine their own fate, the article concluded.

Daily Says Fate of Iraq Should Be Decided by Iraqis

*LD2008100295 Tehran IRNA in English
0944 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 20, IRNA — A Tehran daily in its Sunday [20 August] editorial on recent developments in Iraq suggested that only the Iraqi people are entitled to determine the fate of their country.

The English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES wrote that as it is clear for every one, the United States, in the post-cold war era, has been trying to consolidate its influence in the other countries by following a two-pronged policy: direct military intervention (Haiti and Iraq), and planting its agents at the highest levels of the administrative affairs of certain countries.

The United States tried military intervention in Iraq, the daily continued, to wipe out the Ba'ath Party, but it changed its mind overnight because the U.S. policy makers realized that in case Saddam Husayn and his Ba'ath Party were pulled down, the true representatives of the people would come to power, so they decided to keep Saddam.

Describing the recent flight of Saddam family members as a clear sign of grave conditions in Iraq, the paper added that the United States, realizing that the situation may undergo a dramatic change at any time, has decided to try its second strategy.

Whether Washington try a military intervention in Iraq or try to implement its plot through its certain elements, the U.S. plans would not benefit the Iraqi people, TEHRAN TIMES added.

Referring to a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Syria to be held in Isfahan on September 7 to discuss the latest developments in Iraq, the daily pointed out that the three foreign ministers, through their talks, should impart a message to the world powers, particularly to the United States, that only the Iraqi people are entitled to decide on the future of Iraq.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran has officially announced many times, the daily stressed, the territorial integrity

of Iraq is unquestionable and no foreign country should cast a covetous eye on any part of Iraq.

The daily concluded by saying that no doubt, the central government in Iraq is enough weak and alienated from its people, however, this does not mean that Washington is having right to decide the Iraqi fate.

Ekeus Meeting With Iraqi Defector 'Crucial' for UN

*LD2008125695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0953 GMT 20 Aug 95*

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following a visit to Baghdad, Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN special commission for disarming Iraq announced that he has received more information regarding the Iraqi chemical, biological, and ballistic weaponry. Nevertheless, he said that he intends to have talks with the Iraqi defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan to complete his information. This decision by Ekeus demonstrates the lack of confidence of this UN official in the Baghdad authorities.

Last week, after several senior Iraqi Army officials defected, Baghdad declared its readiness for any cooperation with the UN special commission. On that basis Iraqi officials tried to portray the information held by the defected generals on Iraqi arms and disarm them of the possibility of exploiting that information while at the same time blaming them for not disclosing the required information to the United Nations, so much so that Deputy Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, has declared Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan as the main obstacle in providing the UN special commission with information on Iraqi mass destruction weapons.

Political experts believe that although by that ploy, and by furnishing new information — as announced by Ekeus — Baghdad has tried to gain the confidence of the commission for disarming Iraq, it has failed to do so. Ekeus's decision to contact Husayn Kamil Hasan, while demonstrating his lack of confidence, indicates that Iraqi moves for portraying the information held by the defected general as void have been ineffective.

Kamil Hasan, who held such posts as defense minister, industry minister, and the head of the arms procurement team, is known as the architect of that country's arms plans. That is why he has valuable information regarding Iraqi plans for producing chemical, biological, ballistic, and nuclear weapons. Bearing in mind that such information can help the committee for the disarmament of

Iraq with the implementation of the arms control program and destruction of Iraqi mass-destruction arms, contacting Kamil Hasan is crucial for Ekeus.

The United Nations has linked the lifting of sanctions against Iraq to the destruction of Iraqi mass destruction arms and the stopping of programs for producing such weapons in that country. If the information provided is sufficient and effective in the implementation of that objective, then Iraq will be one step nearer to having the sanctions against it lifted. That is because in such a condition the position of those in the UN Security Council who advocate the lifting of sanctions against Iraq will be strengthened and America — who wishes to continue the sanctions — will be in a weakened position.

Forces Within France Blaming Iran for Paris Bombing

LD1908161595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on August 17th, issued a statement condemning Wednesday's bombing in Paris. Iran's Embassy denied any involvement in the terrorist attempt and noted that Iran is itself one of the victims of international terrorism.

Iran's Embassy issued the statement following false and biased reports broadcast by one the French TV channels. Some hours after the blast the television claimed that moments before the explosion a car belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy had been seen on the site. This is not of course the first time that a French television network accuses Iran of backing terrorism by airing false news. In the past, too, Zionists ruling the French mass media have released reports in this respect. However, as regards the recent case, it appears that the main motive of the influential Zionists in the French mass media for airing such false reports is to affect Irano-French friendly relations.

Considering the relative improvement in relations between the two countries in recent months, attribution of the bombing in Paris to the Islamic Republic of Iran seems to be a subtle move by those, who for any reason are not willing Tehran-Paris relations to expand [as heard]. As the French authorities are familiar with such methods, it is unlikely that news of this sort can create any problems in the relations between the two countries. Basically, carrying out terrorist acts is a normal method employed by those who, for any reason, try to create misunderstanding and pessimism, taking advantage of the differences.

Furthermore, in the general analysis, it should be said that open and secret hands inside France try to attribute

terrorist acts to Muslims by any possible way, so that they can create pessimism among Muslims and other followers of grand, revealed religions. Most certainly, with the disclosure of the nature of those responsible for the terrorist act, the bombing in Paris can contribute to the defeat of such a policy.

French Envoy Summoned

LD1908193595 Tehran IRNA in English 1912 GMT 19 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 19, IRNA — French Charge d'Affaires Jean Francois-Jirault was summoned to the Foreign Ministry here tonight following the questioning of two Iranian Embassy staffers in Paris by France's judicial authorities in connection with the recent blast in the French capital.

Ali Ahani, director general for Western European affairs sounding a strong protest to Francois-Jirault, demanded an explanation terming the issue as contrary to international norms.

The French charge d'affaires, who was summoned in the absence of his country's ambassador, promised to convey to his government the Iranian protest. He said the reply of the Iranian Embassy staffers to the questioning has helped enlightened public opinion and dispelled all doubts that were raised by the media especially the alleged connection of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the recent blast in Paris.

'Interventionist Aspects' to U.S. Mideast Maneuvers Seen

LD2008113295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0949 GMT 20 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Coincidental with the joint U.S.-Jordan military maneuver, Washington announced that in the next few days it will hold similar maneuvers with Kuwait.

Before becoming a new phenomenon, the conduct of military exercises was a usual procedure in military norms to evaluate military potentials, capabilities, and efficiency in practical arenas. In the past, Washington — which used to act mainly as the supplier of arms and military equipment for the so-called friendly and ally states — used to carry out joint maneuvers with such states. Those war games had exercise and training aspects and were carried out with the objective of evaluating the performance of the weapons sold and the quality of training given to the personnel in allied states for using those weapons.

Bearing in mind the form and timing of those maneuvers which used to be carried out on a regular basis and at specific times within the framework of regional accords, the carrying out of such exercises gradually became normal, or at least nonaggressive. But since the Eighties, U.S. military maneuvers have taken on different aspects. For example, the U.S. military exercises in the Caribbean — which used to be regarded as a threat against those states which were independent and outside that country's sphere of influence — changed into a factor for intervention in Granada, Haiti, and Panama. In fact, Washington, in the guise of global policeman and with the dream of realizing the American New Order, regards military exercises as an instrument of intervention, particularly in recent years. It tries to prepare the ground for its influence and domination in various parts of the world by making a pretext of any incident.

Iraq's gross mistakes in the past few years have by themselves paved the ground for the new U.S. strategy,

that is the strategy of spreading the crisis in the region. The eight-year war with the Islamic Republic of Iran and then the invasion of Kuwait are the highlights of such grounds.

During the recent developments in Iraq, Washington is also apparently trying to make use of the opportunity to bring about the grounds for its further presence in the region. The probable message of those military maneuvers — which have taken on provocative, tension-creating, and interventionist aspects — is that the management of the crisis will remain in U.S. hands just as the creation of the crisis does; a message which without accounting for the wishes of the Iraqi people is intended to impose conditions on them which differ from their true wishes. Nevertheless, will the Iraqi people accept to forego their right to determine their own destiny? The future will tell.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

- Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.
- Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.
- Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.